



RADICAL GOD

Part 1: Radical Faithfulness | Matthew 1:1-17

We can trust the Lord, because He is radically committed to keeping His promises.

I. Introduction

Q: Why do you think the Holy Spirit inspired Matthew to begin his gospel with the family tree of Jesus?

Jesus' family tree ties the history of God's salvation in the world together ... it allows us to see God's story emerge ... **it reveals very important truths about God's ways and character.**

II. Covenant Promises Made, Promises Kept

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham." Matthew 1:1

Jesus is the fulfillment to two key covenant promises God made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and David (2 Samuel 7:11b-16).

Two questions drive the Biblical Story:

1. How will God keep His promises?
2. How far will God go to keep His promises?

III. God's Radical Faithfulness

A. God's Radical Ways

1. He is very patient (2 Peter 3:8-9).
From Abraham to Jesus is about 4000 years.
2. He uses sinful, broken people like us.
There is no pattern of righteousness in Jesus' family tree (see Abraham, Jacob, Rahab, David...).
3. He uses people the culture ignores or devalues.
See Tamar (Genesis 38), Rahab (Joshua 2), Ruth (Ruth 3), Bathsheba and Mary (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38).
4. He is not thwarted by cultural changes or strife.
See the great cultural shifts with the civil war between Israel and Judah, the Kingdom intrigue, and the apostasy of many of the kings of Israel and Judah.

"Good or evil, they were part of the Messiah's line; for though grace does not run in the blood, God's providence cannot be deceived or outmaneuvered." Don Carson

B. God's Radical Faithfulness

Q: How far would God go to keep His promises?

Jesus is no ordinary child, but the very Son of God, eternally co-existent with God. Jesus is the God-man (Matthew 1:16, 18-23; Luke 1:26-38, John 1:1-18).

IV. Our Trust in God's Radical Faithfulness (Romans 8:31-39)

"What are we to make of all the sin, all the imperfection, all the failure? Simply this. That God's purposes are not thwarted by our humanity, however weak and wayward it may be. That He works in us and through us and, more often than not, in spite of us. That He works with us, as a gardener works with his garden. Lifting. Pruning. Watering. Weeding. Whatever it takes to bring it to fruition. Or however long it takes. This is our hope." Ken Gire, "Moments With the Savior"