

Knots in Jesus' Family Tree

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Comedy For a Cause: Fri, Oct 2nd, 7pm. Enjoy a night of *family friendly comedy* with **Ron McGahee & Kerri Pomarolli**. **Mercy Projects is the "Cause" that will be highlighted.** Advanced tickets are \$15 each, \$20 at the door. VIP tickets are also available for \$20. Buy your tickets in the office. [www.extremefait productions](http://www.extremefait productions.com)
- B. Slide3 Children at Risk - Part of helping "children at risk" is by trying to prevent them from becoming "at risk". Sunday the 20th, from 3-5pm. **Jennifer O'Farrel, the regional executive director of Big Brother Big Sisters of the Inland Empire**, will be sharing. She will share about their mentoring program. Come and hear what's going on **in our valley, the difference mentoring can make** in the life of a child, **and how you can be involved, whether or not** you can actually be a mentor yourself.

I. Slide4a Intro: *Knots in Jesus' Family Tree*

- A. If the ladies can do *Christmas in July* **then** I can do it in September.
1. Slide4b Once a year you & I go on pilgrimage to a **transfigured barn**, we call a **Nativity**, **but** it demands our **adoration** much more than **a hurried annual patronage**.
 - a) **Wouldn't you agree** the **Incarnation** calls for **undistracted contemplation** void of *Christmas' merchandise & merriment?*
- B. Slide5 The OT/NT Linkage - OT written over 1000 yrs, NT in 1 lifetime. *The new is in the old concealed, the old is in the new revealed.* [400 silent years (silent from God, **but** a lot happened)]
1. OT ends with **Medo-Persian** empire - NT starts w/**Rome** in charge.
 2. OT ends with **Aramaic** language - NT starts with **Greek** language, the lingua franca of the day. [GK language, was so exact & complete, w/its tenses & cases, became the trade language everywhere. It was so imp that 70 scholars translated the OT into Gk, & that's why it is quoted more than the Heb in NT]
 3. OT never speaks of a **synagogue**, **then** because of the **captivity** (where they didn't have a temple) we hear of it often in the NT. [so now we know...]
- C. Slide6 The Bridge - This book is appropriately placed at the beginning of the N.T. - **right next to the O.T.** - for it **bridges** the two.
1. **Matt. quotes from or alludes to the O.T. 129 times.**
 2. He also shows fulfilled Prophecy, & that Jesus is the Messiah.

- a) This book does *Not* unfold Chronologically *but* *Topically*.
- D. **Slide7 4 Gospels**(4 diff camera angles) - **Mt**(Sov/King/Lord) **Mrk**(Servant) **Lk**(Son of man) **Jn**(Son of God)
1. **Mt** (to Jews) **Mrk** (Romans) **Lk** (to Greeks) **Jn** (whole world).
Mt (what Jesus said) **Mrk** (did) **Lk** (felt) **Jn** (who He was).
- E. **Slide8a The Author** - (Matthew, aka Levi)
- F. **Lets read of his conversion in Lk.5:27-32. [Jesus visits the IRS office]**
1. **Tax office** – This was a tax station in Capernaum on an important trade route. Tax collectors were also used to excise taxes for port duties & fishing tolls.
 - a) Traveling from the Roman province to the N/E the 1st town a traveler would come to was **Capernaum**. Thus the tax office was placed on this busy thoroughfare.
 2. **There were 2 kinds of taxes in those days: Stated Taxes & Duties.**
 - a) **Stated Taxes** – **Poll Tax** (all men 14-65 & women 12-65 *had to pay just for being alive*). **Ground Tax** (1/10th of all **grain**. 1/5th all **wine/oil** produced. **Also** a Tax on **fish** - which is what **Capernaum** was famous for). **Income Tax** (1% of annual income).
 - b) **Duties** – Here was the most opportunity for **abuse**.
 - (1) **These were taxes for:** using roads, harbor docks, sales tax, import/export duties. **A Tax was even paid on a cart...each wheel was taxed.**
 - (2) If you didn't have the money to pay **NO PROBLEM**...they also loaned money...**at an exorbitant rate.**
 3. **Tax collectors** – Were outcasts from society.
 - a) The name Tax collector always linked **sinners**/harlots.
 - b) They collaborated w/a foreign government.
 - (1) The Romans collected their taxes through a system called "**Tax Farming**". (like our Franchises today)
 - (2) They would pay the government for the right to collect taxes, & then collected **far more than** was really due.
 - (3) Known as **leeches**. "**Gorging themselves w/money in the process of gathering money for the Caesars...**"
 - c) They were swindlers, money-hungry, & despised.
 - d) **Slide8b** Barclay said, "***So rare was honesty in the profession that a Roman writer said he once saw a monument to an honest Tax collector.***"

¹ Lockyer, All the Men of the Bible, pg.232.

4. **Slide9 Follow me** – (Levi = join or adhesion) His original name linked with the Tribe/Levi, **yet** he couldn't have gotten farther away.
 - a) No longer a *patriot* of his country. Often would have to work on the *Sabbath*, **thus they were forbidden to enter the synagogue.**
 - b) Once **joined** to this foreign power & to crooked ways, **now** Levi, **join Me!** (did Jesus change his name, or did he change it himself?)
 - (1) **Matthew = Gift of the Lord** (*Jehovah*)
 - c) **Join me** in the way, & travel with me. He asked for complete submission, **but he asked for it, in fellowship.** Come & travel with me; take my road, be My friend, be my companion. (Morgan)
5. (28) James & John, Peter & Andrew could always go back to fishing...as they did later. **But** not for Matthew, *he burned his bridges completely.*
 - a) He staked everything on Christ. *“God never goes back on the man who stakes his all on Him.”*
 - b) **Slide10** Matthew left everything...**except** his **Pen & Ink!!!** Writing one of the most important documents of all time.

G. **After opening his Heart, he opened his Home** [Matthew wanted his friends saved]
After opening his Home, he opened his Hand.

1. Matthew *kept records* by vocation...it's only fitting he would grab a pen & keep *a new record.* **Whatever is in our hands presently...God will use:**
 - a) Moses/rod. David/sling shot. Peter/net. Matthew/pen.

II. **Slide11 GOD COMING TO US / GENEALOGY** (1-17) [2nd Part: **GOD WITH US**]

- A. **Slide12** Discovering **your** ancestry has become big \$ *Ancestry.com* [Tag Line: *Discover your story in history*]
 1. Now even **AncestryDNA.** (\$99, small saliva sample, 6-8weeks, **voila!**)
- B. *Jesus' Foster Father's Genealogy*
- C. **Slide13** (1) Matthew starts by saying, *Jesus is the rightful heir to the throne of Israel.*
 1. **Racially** - thru **Abraham** (Ab. seed would be blest)
 2. **Royally** - thru **David** (couldn't build God a house, **but** God would build a house thru him. 2 Sam.7:13) ***[Luke's genealogy shows Jesus' genetic line thru Mary]**
 - a) God's 1st announcement of the coming of the Savior was given in **Gen.3:15**, informing us the Savior would be a **human being not an angel** (her seed).
Next, in Gen.12:3 He tells us He would be **Jewish.** **Then** in **Gen.49:10** He would

come through the tribe of **Judah**. **Now** we learn here that Messiah would come through **David's** family.

- b) **Then** Micah would add (in ch.5:2) His birth place would be in **Bethlehem**, so He'd be able to fill out His **Passport**.
 - c) **No wonder** David gets elated (in 2 Sam.7:18-29) when he learned that Messiah would be known as *the Son of David*. (Mt.1:1)
3. Since Herod destroyed all genealogies in A.D.70, There is no Jew today who can claim w/certainty & authority to be *a son of Abraham & a son of David* except **Jesus**. **Here, is the only preserved genealogy in the world today.**

D. Slide14a Knots in Jesus' Family Tree

E. (4) Women in a Genealogy?

1. **Tamar** - Mentioned for those Jews proud of their **male superiority**.
 - a) **Judah** - **Er** (God kills). **Onan** (levirate, *coitus interruptus*, killed). Wait for **Shelah** (Judah withholds, she plays harlot, deceives Judah. becomes preg by him. *Burn Her!* Opps *signet/cord & staff*). **Zelah**/scarlet & **Perez**/breach.
2. **Slide14b Rahab** - (the x-prostitute) For those proud of their **sexual purity**.
3. **Slide14c Ruth** - (Gentile/Moabite) For those proud of their **racial purity**.
4. **Slide14d Bathsheba** - For those proud of the **history of their great king**.
 - a) Song, *Air I Breathe*, by Mat Kearney *Is it any wonder Shame comes callin my first name*
 - b) **Don't ever say** God can't use you because of what you've done...*whether 10 min. ago, or 10 yrs. ago.*
 - (1) **Tamar** would say, *but I've deceived*. **Rahab** *but I've got a bad reputation*. **Ruth** *but I wasn't raised a Christian*.
5. **Don't be a Scab Picker**...leave the past as just that....the **Past**.
6. **We say we can't pick our relatives**, **but** Jesus could & did. **Obviously** to show His incredible Love for **Sinners**. That's, **Good News**.

F. The stage is now set for God to do *a New Thing* & it would be **broader** than **Israel**.

G. **Note:** vs.16 - All the *begots*...*till Joseph* is mentioned.

III. Slide15 **GOD WITH US** (18-25)

A. (18) We are introduced to **Mary** & we try to imagine one of our sophomore girls in our High School saying, *I'm pregnant, but it's not what you think, it's a God thing*.

- B. (19) We are introduced to **Joseph** who takes a stand for *righteousness*, but he is also *merciful*. What a Man. What an *obedient* man.
- C. Slide16 A brief glimpse at **3 names** for Jesus: [They express: the mystery, meaning & message of the incarnation]
1. **The Mystery**. A descriptive name of His earthly ministry. *Immanuel/God with us*
 - a) *** Invite up *worship team* to share a new song with us.
 - b) This is *union* of the **Creator** w/the **creature**.
 - c) John Wesley died w/this on his tongue. Let us live w/it on our hearts. *God is w/us*.
 - (1) (after song) God w/us in our world, now in our lives...think about it...
God can't adequately be expressed to our world through 1 Christian mechanic, or 1 Christian nurse.
 - (a) *Christ in us the hope of glory*. *Christ for me* (Christ dying on the cross)
Christ in me (living in my heart) *Christ through me* (Christ speaking by my life)
 - (b) *God in each of us, lived out through each of us*. Do we get it?
 2. **The Meaning**. An official name/Title. *Christ* - The Gk form of the Heb. Mashiach or Messiah, *The Anointed one*.
 - a) In the O.T. 3 groups were anointed: *Prophets, Priests, & Kings*.
 3. **The Message**. His human name. *Jesus* - The Greek form of the Hebrew *Joshua* (a very popular name) **Savior** - His mission was to save.
 - a) Mary didn't whip out her baby book, "*Oh Joseph lets call him Jesus, I just love the sound of it.*" - No, it meant something...*Jehovah is Salvation*.
 - b) All the names/titles of Jesus are sweet in the believer's ear. Whether he be called the Husband of the Church, her Bridegroom, her Friend. Whether he be called the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, the King, the Prophet, or the Priest. Every title of our Master, Shiloh, Emmanuel, Wonderful, the Mighty Counsellor, every name is like the honeycomb dripping with honey. But if there be one name sweeter than another in the believer's ear, it is the name of Jesus. **Jesus!** it is the name which moves the harps of heaven to melody. **Jesus!** [adapted from Spurgeon]
- D. Slide17 (21) He will save His people from their *sins*.
- E. Which *Sins* will He save us from?
- F. There are many different words used for sin:
1. **Transgression** (*parabasis* - παραβασις) An overstepping/breaking of the law Rm2:23

2. **Iniquity** (*anomia* - ανομία) Lawlessness. Whether by being ignorant to it or because of violating it. 1Jn.3:4
3. **Error** (*plane* - πλανη) A departure from righteousness. *“A wandering, a forsaking of the right path.”* James 5:20
4. **Trespass** (*paraptoma* - παραπτομα) A false step, a blunder. Lit. *a fall beside*. A deviation from uprightness & truth. Eph.2:1
5. **Unbelief** (*apistia* - απιστια) Faithless, lack of faith. Rom.11:20, 3:3
6. **Sin** (*hamartia* - αμαρτια) Missing the mark. A failure to meet the divine standards. Rom.3:23 & Mt. 1:21 & **our text here**.
 - a) **No one has Hit the mark on there own**. It’s impossible.
 - b) *Many a procrastinator counts the cost of following Jesus but fails to count the cost of NOT following Him.*
 - c) D.L.Moody said, *To create, God had only to speak; To Redeem, He had to suffer.*

G. **Slide18 Man’s sin is 3-fold: Our sinful nature** is *enmity* toward God (Rom.5:12).

Our sinful state is the *absence* of **Righteousness** (Rom.3:21,22).

Our sinful actions are *proof*, when we violate or disobey the revealed will of God (Rom.2:4-11).

1. If you haven’t let go of your **sins**, you are holding onto a *hand grenade* w/the pin pulled out.

H. Centuries ago a number of workmen were seen dragging a great marble block into the city of Florence, Italy. It had come from the famous marble quarry of Carrara, & was intended to be made into a statue of **a great OT prophet**. But it contained *imperfections*, & when the great sculptor **Donatello** saw it, **he refused it at once**. So there it lay in the cathedral yard, a useless block. **1 day another sculptor** caught sight of the *flawed* block. **But** as he examined it, there rose in his mind something of immense beauty, & he resolved to sculpt it. For 2 years the artist worked feverishly on the work of art. **Finally**, on Jan.25, 1504, the greatest artists of the day assembled to see what he had made of the despised & rejected block. Among them were Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, & Pietro Perugino, the teacher of Raphael. As the veil dropped to the floor, the statue was met w/a chorus of praise. It was a masterpiece! The succeeding centuries have confirmed that judgment. **Slide19 Michelangelo’s David** is 1 of the greatest works of art the world has ever known.

1. **Jesus saw** in the flawed life of **Levi**...a *Matthew* (a writer, an evangelist)

2. Jesus sees in **us** what no one else sees.