



Pastor Kris Beckert
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We Are Family
Matthew 1:1-17

Do you have a crazy family?

God writes a crazy group of people into Jesus' family

Matthew 1:1 *This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham...*

The way Matthew starts his gospel:

- Indicates Jesus' kingship
- Does not gloss over family members
- Highlights unexpected characters

Matthew 1:2-16 *Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of **Judah** and his brothers, 3 **Judah** the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was **Tamar**, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram...
...Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.*

How does God redeem a crazy family?

I. Through crazy _____, not goodness.

Genesis 37:26-28 *Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. 28 So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.*

- Judah – not the eldest brother, not a "good" brother

II. Through crazy _____, not approval.

Genesis 38:12-15 *In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; when Judah's time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," 14 she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. 15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face.*

- Judah's obligation to Tamar -

III. Through crazy _____, not self-righteousness.

Genesis 38:24-26 *About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant." Judah said, "Bring her out and have her burned to death!" 25 As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. "I am pregnant by the man who owns these," she said. And she added, "See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are." 26 Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah."*

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. How is your family crazy? Have you ever wished you had a different family?
2. Where do you demonstrate God's grace in your family?
3. What would it look like for you to support and include family members without necessarily approving of their actions?
4. Where do you need to be more humble in your family relationships?
5. What relationship, family member, or family situation do you need to trust God to redeem? How might God use you in the process?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org or call 703.819.7795 to set up an appointment.