

TAMAR

Text: Mark 10:46-47

46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Introduction: They say you can tell a lot about a person if you know a little about his or her past. Most of us remember the events surrounding the Supreme Court nominee, Clarence Thomas, who had a lady accuse him of sexual harassment. He denied the allegations. Never the less, the media made a big to do about this affecting his future as a Supreme Court Justice.

Most of us would readily jump on the band -wagon if the story were true because we want fair and impartial judges sitting on that bench.

We also like to repeat the old wives saying, "It's in his/her genes." This means that someone's lineage can have a negative affect on their life style and their productivity in our society.

In our text, the blind man is seeking for help from a man who is passing though Jericho. Maybe we need to look at the lineage of this man because the blind man may be calling out to someone who could care less about him or his needs.

Matt 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,

6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot

8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.

15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

Well, we were able to trace Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, the father of the people of Israel. But did you notice that there was a woman mentioned in verse three, named Tamar that bore two sons to Judah? What kind of person is she? Could this be a problem? I wonder!

Tamar's Story. [Her story is found in Genesis 38.]

A. Judah took her to be the wife of his firstborn.

Gen 38:6 Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him. Er was wicked and God killed him.

[The Jews had a custom that if a man died his brother would take the widow and bare heirs for him.]

8 And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."

D. Onan was not faithful and he died also.

9 But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother.

10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also.

E. Tragedy seems to surround Tamar's life from the start.

1. Is she at fault?
2. Is she to blame?
3. The answer is a resounding "NO!"

F. More is promised if she will just wait.

11 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die as his brothers did." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

G. Tamar's story worsens.

12 Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

13 And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

1. She feels she will have to make things happen herself.

14 So she took off her widow's garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.

2. Judah falls into her trap.

15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face.

16 Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

3. She sets Judah up.

17 And he said, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give me a pledge till you send it?"

18 Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that is in your hand." Then he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

4. The plan worked. She had an heir.

H. The castaway is rewarded by God.

19 So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood.

1. Judah's servant cannot find the harlot.

20 And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her.

21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who was openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this place."

2. The men of the place said there was no harlot who worked there.

22 And he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this place."

I. Judah is confronted.

24 And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she is with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

25 When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these are-- the signet and cord, and staff."

J. Judah declares Tamar was righteous in her actions but she is left to raise her son without a father.

26 So Judah acknowledged them and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.

27 Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb.

28 And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

29 Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" Therefore his name was called Perez.

30 Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.

Now you know folks. Jesus of Nazareth has a muddied past.

Blind Bartimaeus.

A. He is blind and he is sitting by the roadside begging.
Mark 10:46 Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

B. When Jesus passes by, he begins to cry out for mercy.
47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

1. The crowd knew what to do.

2. Tell him the truth, "He's too busy to bother with wayside folks like you."
3. "Jesus is too noble to be concerned about beggars and blind and lame folks."

48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

[But blind Bartimaeus did something that changed the rest of his life.] He cried out "Son of David."

49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.

Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

F. Jesus received him and gave him his sight.

50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.

51 So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

G. Did you notice the benevolent attitude of Jesus?
Jesus let him declare the gift.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Conclusion: Some of you are wondering 'What are you trying to tell us pastor?

When blind Bartimaeus called out "Son of David," he touched the very heartthrob of Jesus. Why would He be so open to those who were destitute and left to sit by the roadsides of life while others passed merrily along? It is very simple. He knew that there was someone who was a part of his life that had sit by the wayside desperately

hoping that God would touch the heart of someone who would be able to help.

Tamar is a part of the lineage of Jesus whose life was tainted by pain, rejection and being left out-of-the-loop so to speak. ‘Nobody’s’ is what she represented. She was chosen to be an heir of great things but her world came tumbling down on top of all her dreams.

Now on this roadside, Jesus, her heir can repay and restore what others had failed to do.

Many are here this morning and your past fits tightly into those in our message today: lonely, rejected, cast aside, left without hope, destitute and wondering if God would ever notice you. I have good news! Really Good News!!

When you cry out Jesus thou Son of David, you call forth all that He is! The mother of the twins, Tamar, wants you to know God will not forget His promise. Let today be your day to be received by Jesus Christ! He loves you! Cast aside your garment of fear and doubt and loneliness and let Him give you “a garment of praise for your spirit of heaviness.”