



Jesus— The Perfect Gift For An Imperfect World

“Obed— The Worshiping Servant”

Matthew 1:1-6

Introduction

For the past few years during the Christmas season we have been examining the people in the genealogy of Jesus.

Genealogy— A record or table of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree. The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.

When I think about a study of genealogy I think B O R I N G—

However, The older I get the more I realize my family history is very important because **part of who I am comes from who they were.**

Jesus is no different!

Robert Warren said this about the genealogy of Jesus: “All of the descendants of Jesus were very human with very human weaknesses, some worse than others. I’m sure that every family has skeletons in the closet that you would like to keep there, but in Jesus’ case their deeds are right there in Scripture for all the world to see. You might think that the Son of God, the King of the Universe, the Messiah himself would have a good pedigree. But this is not so.

And yet, God used all of these sinful, fallen people in his plan to bring the savior to the world, to save the world.

God used murderers, cheats, liars, prostitutes, pagans and swindlers to accomplish His plan to save the world. Why? Because He sent his son to save murderers, cheats, liars, prostitutes, pagans and swindlers. You know, people like you and me. He allowed his perfect Son to be born from such

imperfect ancestors because it was those kinds of people that God came to save.

When you read the names in ancestry of Jesus, you see a cross section of humanity, in all its glory and shame. Some did great heroic things, some did despicable things, some did both. But you know something? We're all like those people in the family tree of Jesus: some good, some bad, most in between.

But, the incredible thing is that God, in his infinite Grace, loves us, warts and all. He loves us enough to work through all these fallen people to bring His Son the earth to keep His promise to save us and to redeem His world from the clutches of Satan.”

In the most recent sermon in this series from the genealogy of Jesus we discovered how God worked in the lives of Elimelech, Naomi, Ruth and Boaz to accomplish His plans through the genealogy of Jesus.

Elimelech— Led his wife Naomi, and his sons Mahlon and Chilion to the wicked land of Moab.

It is never a good thing when righteous people settle and get comfortable in a godless place.

Naomi— The name “**Naomi**” comes from the word “**Naem**” meaning a person who is **pleasant, sweet, delightful and beautiful**. Naomi left Bethlehem full and returned bitter. During her time in Moab Naomi's husband and her two sons died. Naomi became bitter and hardened towards God, her life and her people. When Naomi returned to Bethlehem from Moab the godless place, she demanded to be called a new and different name “**Mara**” meaning a bitter place in the desert. Mara carries with it the idea of being cursed, afflicted and wretched.

Ruth— The daughter in law of Naomi. She travelled with Naomi back to Bethlehem. Ruth was a foreigner from Moab she was faithful to Naomi and she committed her life follow Yahweh the God of Naomi.

Boaz— The relative of Naomi who became the Kinsman Redeemer of Ruth. The Kinsman Redeemer reveals the love of God to show mercy and grace to those in need.

Today we are going to learn about **Obed** the son of Boaz and Ruth.

Scripture

An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

² Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,

³ Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Aram,

⁴ Aram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,

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

⁶ and Jesse fathered King David. CSB

Quote Of The Day

“God always builds His kingdom on the very things that are weak and humble in humanity. God utilizes our weakness and helplessness, to accomplish in us what we could never accomplish on our own.”

— J.S. Stewart

Who is Obed?

Obed is not a recognized name. Obed is not on the top 100 most popular names to call your son.

Matter of fact most people don't really know who Obed is.

Obed is mentioned three times in the Bible, **Ruth 4**, **I Chronicles 2:12** and **Matthew 1:5** all three references to Obed are in reference his place in the genealogy of King David and Jesus the Messiah.

Obed is the father of Jesse and the Grandfather of King David.

There is a significant lesson we learn from Obed:

You don't have to be somebody to be somebody!

A person doesn't need to be famous, influential, or hold a specific title in order to have value, influence or make a positive impact. Every person has immeasurable value and potential. Any person can have influence on others regardless of social status, popularity or recognized achievements.

Have you ever heard of Joshua Haldeman or his wife Winnifred?

He was not famous, he held no special title, matter of fact, he tried several ventures and failed more than once.

You may not recognize the name Joshua Haldeman but there is no denying the power of his influence on others.

Joshua Haldeman grew up on the prairies of Saskatchewan. When the domino effect of the Great Depression hit Canada, Haldeman lost his five-thousand-acre farm and had to start over from scratch. He tried his hand at chiropractic medicine and politics. Then Haldeman discovered his true passion—flying airplanes.

In 1950, Haldeman uprooted his family and moved halfway around the world to South Africa, a place he had never even been to before! With the help of his wife, Winnifred, and their children, he disassembled his 1948 single-engine airplane. The airplane was packed into crates, shipped to South Africa, and reassembled by the family once it got there.

A few years later, Joshua and his wife Winnifred Haldeman embarked on a thirty-thousand-mile round-trip flight from Africa to Australia and back. They are believed to be the only private pilots to have ever made that flight in a single-engine airplane. As a comparison point, Charles Lindbergh's legendary transatlantic flight in 1927 was only 3,600 miles. Twenty-seven years later, the Haldemans flew more than eight times as far!

Few people have heard of Joshua and Winnifred Haldeman, but I'm sure you've heard of their grandson— Elon Musk. Musk's entrepreneurial exploits are well documented. He has turned the automotive and aerospace industries upside down. At SpaceX headquarters, there are two giant posters of Mars. One shows a cold,

barren planet. The other looks a lot like Earth. The second poster represents Musk's life purpose—colonizing Mars.

How does someone even conceptualize colonizing a planet, in the non-science-fiction sense? Dreams are not conceived in a vacuum. One of Musk's biographers noted, "**Throughout his childhood, Elon heard many stories about his grandfather's exploits and sat through countless slide shows that documented his travels.**" Those stories were the seedbed of Musk's imagination. Those stories were the shoulders he stood on.

Citation: Excerpted from Win the Day: 7 Daily Habits to Help You Stress Less & Accomplish More Copyright © 2020 by Mark Batterson, pages 24-25. Used by permission of Multnomah, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC.

What we learn from Joshua Hildeman and what we learn from Obed is this:

We all have ability and power to influence others.

Obed is not a popular person in the Bible but that does not mean He didn't have influence!

The name "**Obed**" means servant and worshiper.

The name "**Obed**" reflects the qualities of humility, service to others and dedication to a life of worship.

The influence of Obed on his son Jesse was passed on to Jesse's sons, we know for sure it was passed on to David.

Based on his name we understand that Obed was a "**Worshipping Servant**" who had tremendous influence on his family.

Obed teaches us you don't have to be a "**somebody**" to be a "**somebody**" in God's Kingdom.

The question that comes to my mind concerning Obed is this—

"Where does Godly influence come from?"

Isaiah 66:1-2 “This is what the Lord says: Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool. Where could you possibly build a house for me? And where would my resting place be? ²My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being. This is the Lord’s declaration. I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.” CSB

Godly Influence does not come from money, possessions, popularity, time, ability or resources vv.1-2a

“This is what the Lord says: Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool. Where could you possibly build a house for me? And where would my resting place be? ²My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being.” CSB

What can we physically give to God that would impress Him or gain His favor?

Heaven is His throne, the earth is His footstool, what kind of house could we build for Him? Where would His resting place be?

God doesn’t bless inanimate objects— the Church isn’t a building, buildings are where the Church meets. God doesn’t bless worship styles, personal preferences, traditions or religious pretense.

“My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being.”

Psalms 33:6-9 “The heavens were made by the word of the LORD, and all the stars, by the breath of His mouth. ⁷He gathers the water of the sea into a heap; He puts the depths into storehouses. ⁸Let the whole earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. ⁹For He spoke, and it came into being; He commanded, and it came into existence.” CSB

We cannot create anything that hasn’t already been created— we can’t create anything that would impress God or gain His favor.

Godly Influence comes from those who are favorable in God's sight v.2b

“ . . . This is the Lord's declaration. **I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.**” CSB

The phrase translated “**look favorably**” comes from the Hebrew word “**Nabat**” meaning to **express approval, to prefer, to treasure, to ensure a good outcome to the ones who stand out, the ones who shine the brightest.**

God approves of, shows favor, treasures and blesses those who stand out and shine the brightest.

How do we stand out and shine the brightest?

The Favor of God on our life comes from:

Humility

This is the LORD's declaration. **I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble,** submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.

God's Word says “I will treasure and show favor to those who are humble.”

The word translated “**humble**” comes from the Hebrew word “**Ani**” meaning weak, oppressed, poor, wretched, afflicted, without property, someone in need.

There are two types of Humility:

Vainglorious Humility

What is Vainglorious Humility?

Vainglorious Humility is the attempt to act humble and say humble things when it is obvious the words and deeds are meant to impress others. Vainglorious Humility looks like the Pharisees in the New Testament.

The New Testament provides several examples of the vainglorious humility of the Pharisees. Their pride of the Pharisees was evident through self-righteousness, hypocrisy, and a desire for public recognition.

Matthew 23:1-7 “. . . Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples: ²“The scribes and the Pharisees are seated in the chair of Moses. ³Therefore do whatever they tell you, and observe it. But don’t do what they do, because they don’t practice what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy loads that are hard to carry and put them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves aren’t willing to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do everything to be seen by others: They enlarge their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. ⁶They love the place of honor at banquets, the front seats in the synagogues, ⁷greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by people.” CSB

Jesus criticized the Pharisees for doing their deeds publicly to be seen by others. The Pharisees loved places of honor at feasts, the best seats in synagogues, they desired respectful greetings in public.

Authentic Humility

What is Authentic Humility?

Authentic Humility is the quality of living in the truth: The truth that we are creatures and not the Creator; the truth that our life is a composite of good and evil, light and darkness; the truth that in our littleness we have been given extravagant dignity.... Humility is saying a radical yes to the human condition. [Citation:Robert F. Morneau, quoted in "Reflections," Christianity Today \(8-21-00\)](#)

1 Peter 5:5-6 “. . . All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time,” CSB

The Favor of God on our life comes from:

Brokenness

This is the LORD's declaration. **I will look favorably on this kind of person:** one who is humble, **submissive in spirit**, and trembles at my word.

God's Word says "I will treasure and show favor to those who are broken."

The phrase translated "**submissive in spirit**" comes from the Hebrew word "**Nakeh**" meaning smitten, stricken, crippled, contrite, convicted of personal sin, repentant and the feeling of regret for sinful words and deeds.

Psalm 32:1-5 "How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! ²How joyful is a person whom the Lord does not charge with iniquity and in whose spirit is no deceit! ³When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in the summer's heat. ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin." CSB

Psalm 51:1-7 "Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love; according to your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion. ²Completely wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I am conscious of my rebellion, and my sin is always before me. ⁴Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight. So you are right when you pass sentence; you are blameless when you judge. ⁵Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me. ⁶Surely you desire integrity in the inner self, and you teach me wisdom deep within. ⁷Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."

Psalm 51 addresses the theme of brokenness and conviction of sin emphasizing repentance and the power of acknowledging one's sins before God.

The Favor of God on our life comes from:

Obedience

This is the LORD's declaration. **I will look favorably on this kind of person:** one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and **trembles at my word.**

God's Word says "I will treasure and show favor **to those who tremble at my Word.**"

The word translated "**trembles**" comes from the Hebrew word "**Chared**" meaning to be in awe of God's Word, to have reverence and respect for God's Word.

Those who experience favor with God:

Read God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." CSB

Those who experience favor with God:

Believe God's Word

James 2:21-22 "Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." CSB

Those who experience favor with God:

Obey God's Word

Proverbs 4:1-4 "Listen, sons, to a father's discipline, and pay attention so that you may gain understanding, ² for I am giving you good instruction.

Don't abandon my teaching. ³When I was a son with my father, tender and precious to my mother, ⁴he taught me and said, "Your heart must hold on to my words. Keep my commands and live. ⁵Get wisdom, get understanding; don't forget or turn away from the words from my mouth." CSB

Those who gain favor with God will have influence from God!