

GIVING UP ON *Christmas*

December 2, 2018
Pastor David Mitchell

Giving Up Hopelessness (for Hope through God's Grace) Matthew 1:1-17

"For of His (Jesus) fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." John 1:16; Hebrews 12:15

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17

The ancestry of Jesus in Matthew 1 lists people from many good and bad situations. God's sovereign and faithful work in each person reveals the "grace upon grace" He provides to fulfill His promises and make a way for the Messiah's birth. In Jesus Christ, we have been given a sure hope through the grace of God. Will you give up on hopelessness this Christmas to accept the gift of His grace and find His hope in your life today?

Abraham: Grace for God's tests in life. Matthew 1:2; Hebrews 11:17-19

- **Genesis 22:1-2** "Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham" He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

Tamar: Grace over sexual abuse. Matthew 1:3

- **Genesis 38**

Rahab: Grace over a broken difficult past. Mother of Boaz with Salmon. Matthew 1:5

- **Joshua 2:1** "Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, 'Go, view the land, especially Jericho.' So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there.

Ruth: Grace over a marginalized life. Moabite woman married to Boaz. Great Grandmother of David.

Matthew 1:5; Deuteronomy 23:3, 4; Isaiah 56:3, 6-8.

- **Ruth 4:12-13** "'Moreover, may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the offspring which the LORD will give you by this young woman.' So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son."
- **Ruth 4:17** "The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi!' So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David."

David and Bathsheba: Grace over blatant willful sin. Matthew 1:6

- **2 Samuel 11:1-5; Psalm 51**
- **Psalm 32:1** "How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!"

King Hezekiah (father) and Manasseh (his son): Grace for the spiritual rebellion of a child. Matthew 1:10

- **2 Chronicles 33:10-12** "The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze chains and took him to Babylon. When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers."

King Josiah: Grace to live in faithful obedience to the Bible. Matthew 1:11

- **2 Kings 23:25** "Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him."

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Where have you seen the grace of God at work in your life?

Where would you like the grace of God to help you or others?

Which of the names in the genealogy of Jesus do you most identify with and ask for God's grace?

God's Grace Brings You Hope: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." – Romans 15:13

Read what Paul said about grace:

1 Corinthians 15:9–10 “**For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.**”

- How did he view his position as apostle in light of God's grace?
- What sins did God's grace cover?
- When Paul “labored” for the Lord, what role did grace play?

Read Romans 8:28. This verse shows how God worked in this matter of Jesus genealogy and can work in your life as well. The comments after each phrase are provided to help you apply this verse to your life.

- **God causes**—He is in control. What do you need to submit to God's control in your life?
- **All things**—He can control and care for you even in your failures. Will you submit “all things” to Him today?
- **To work**—It is God's power to cause all things to work. Remember how He told Mary that “*nothing will be impossible*” for Him? Is there an area of your life you will not allow Him to “work?” Are you trusting in your own strength or God's power? Will you trust in His power today?
- **Together for good**—God can take your worst sins and failures and provide a new plan to turn them for good in His time. What areas of your life do you want God to turn for “good”?
- **To those who love God and are called according to His purpose**—What is God's purpose for your life? Is there any sin preventing you from fully loving God and experiencing the promises of this verse? Will you turn your life over to God for His good, and ultimately your own good? He will give you a power to overcome all things.

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a “meal” for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.