

Overshadowed Series
Part Two
12/10/22
Newport News

Opening

***-When is the last time you felt enveloped by the shadow of the Almighty?
When is the last time you felt surrounded by the power of the Most High?
When is the last time you were overshadowed by your God?***

-Psalm 91:1-16

Introduction

-Distinct promises! (Luke 1:26-37)

- **The Lord is with you!**
- **The Word of God will never fail you!**
- **The Holy Spirit will come upon you!**
- **The power of the Most High will overshadow you!**

-Overshadowed – ep-ee-skee-ad'-zo in Greek

-Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)

-Peter's shadow passing over people (Acts)

-**Matthew 28:20**...we expect this one! (The Lord is with you!)

-**Psalm 119:160**...we expect this one! (The Bible will never fail you!)

-**Acts 1:8**...we expect this one! (The Holy Spirit will empower you!)

-**Luke 1:35**...but do we expect this one...to be overshadowed?

-Last week: anger and family history

-Tonight I want to talk about needing the power of the Most High to overshadow us when we feel unfit, unwanted, and unsuitable.

Jesus' Genealogy

-We tend to define our potential based on what we have done in our past AND on who we aren't in our present...often leading us to think God could never use us!

-Matthew 1:3, 5-6, 11 (explain about Matthew and Luke genealogies)

1. **Tamar** – *One of Judah's sons married Tamar and soon died so another son married her so his brother's name could live on (explain). Then that son died so Judah was afraid if his third son married her, even though he was obligated by Jewish law, he might die too. Once it was clear Judah never intended to give her a husband, she disguised herself as a prostitute and lured Judah to father into sexual encounter resulting in her becoming pregnant. So here we have deceptive, incestuous act at the center of Jesus' heritage.*
2. **Rahab** – *This Canaanite prostitute lived in Jericho at the time Israel besieged it as they prepared to enter into the Promised Land. We all know the story of Jericho's walls coming tumbling down. But did you remember that this prostitute aided Israel's spies that Joshua had sent in prior to the battle? She made a deal with the spies that once Israel conquered her city, they would spare her and her family because she had helped them. So here we have an ethnic enemy of Israel with a lewd lifestyle who also betrayed her own people at the center of Jesus' heritage.*
3. **Ruth** – *Interestingly, Ruth marries Boaz who is the son of Rahab! So one of the most beautiful stories in the Bible of grief, devotion, love, and honor is only possible because of the treachery of a Canaanite prostitute! So here again, we see a Moabite, who like the Canaanites are a people who are enemies of Israel. And even more so, all of Moab was under a curse by God. And yet in spite of all this, Ruth is at the center of Jesus' heritage.*
4. **Bathsheba** – *And if Jesus' family history isn't controversial enough, one the greatest acts of treachery in Scripture is central to Jesus' genealogy. King David sees this married woman bathing on her rooftop and sends for her. When we understand the nature of power dynamics in relationships, especially with sexual encounters, I think we can agree this isn't just adultery but also rape. King David then arranges for the death of her husband once learning that Bathsheba is pregnant. She becomes the mother of Solomon. Here again, treachery at the center of Jesus' heritage.*

-And there is more! Matthew neatly has his genealogy divided into three groups of 14 generations each, which required leaving out some names. Three were sons of Athaliah, the daughter of Jezebel and Ahab. Athaliah had sworn to wipe out all of David's line...and yet one of her sons becomes part of Jesus' heritage!

-Can you relate to these women, are there some memories in your past that cause you to feel like God could never use you...that you feel unfit?

(preach about application in Heaven being stamped "unfit")

Jesus' Earthly Father

-Mark 6:3 (Matthew 13:55)

>tekton – can mean carpenter but could be generic for builder

>growing belief that Joseph was more likely a stone builder because so many of Jesus' metaphors were stones and not wood...

>but most important observation is still the same...Joseph wasn't a Rabbi nor was Jesus!

-Bet Sefer

- At age 6
- Local Rabi and local Synagogue
- Until age 10
- Memorize Genesis – Deuteronomy

-Bet Talmud

- At age 10, only those with promise...
- Others..."Go learn your father's trade..."
- Jesus and all his disciples...all tradesmen, rejected!"
- Memorize rest of OT...39 books...

-Bet Midrash

- At 14, apply to be a disciple: learn, live, teach
- Abandon everything...
- "Can this kid spread my yoke?"
- "Come, follow me!"

-Both Joseph and Jesus at some point flunked out of rabbinical training school!

-Matthew 21:23-27 (source of Jesus' authority question)

-John 8:41 (this is a dig against Jesus and Joseph and Mary!)

-Is there some standard based in cultural norms that defines success and being qualified in such a way that makes you feel unfit?

Band

-When is the last time you felt enveloped by the shadow of the Almighty? When is the last time you felt surrounded by the power of the Most High? When is the last time you were overshadowed by your God?

-invite people to come to the altar during worship...some of us will be up here moving among you, praying for you.

Close