

# Your Family Tree

(Matthew 1:1-17)

- Introduction:
1. Many of you are familiar with Ancestry.com, and probably many of you are members or have used their service to learn about your ancestors.
  2. The older I get, the more interested I am in our family tree.
  3. Illustration from my family tree:
    - a. "December 28th 1755 To Captain John Ashby of the second Company of Rangers [From George Washington] I am very much surprized to hear the great irregularities which were allowed of in your Camp. The Rum, although sold by Joseph Coombs, I am credibly informed, is your property. There are continual complaints to me of the misbehaviour of your Wife; who I am told sows sedition among the men, and is chief of every mutiny. If she is not immediately sent from the Camp, or I hear any more complaints of such irregular Behaviour upon my arrival there; I shall take care to drive her out myself, and suspend you..."
  4. I'm sure we all have black sheep in our lineage, but some people use their circumstances in life as an excuse for poor behavior, and as a way to escape personal responsibility.
  5. But as we know, Jesus was a sinless man, and he had plenty of reason to excuse himself due to his lineage, but he didn't and neither should we.

## I. The Ancestry of Jesus

- A. (Matthew 1:1-17).
- B. Tamar (Matthew 1:3; Genesis 38:1-30).
- C. Rahab (Matthew 1:5; Joshua 2:1-24).
- D. Ruth (Matthew 1:5; Genesis 19:30-37).
- E. Bathsheba (Matthew 1:7; 2 Samuel 11:1-27).

## II. Our Ancestry

- A. You don't have to be "Jesus" to overcome your family tree.
- B. I do not mean to minimize the difficulty that some have in their home-life, but one's family tree does not remove personal responsibility.
- C. But there comes a point when we have to take ownership of our lives and be accountable to God.
- D. Josiah (2 Chronicles 33:21-34:2).
- F. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:2-3; 2 Kings 16:1-4).
- G. (Ezekiel 18:20).
- H. Then there's your "family tree."

- Conclusion:
1. God needs men and women who have the courage and strength of character to step out of ungodly patterns and set new patterns for themselves.
  2. Our family tree is no excuse; we must decide whom we will serve.