

“Promise Keeper”
An Unexpected Christmas, Part 4
December 20th & 23rd, 2018

Matthew in the genealogy of Jesus lists some strange & outlandish people because they are **part** of the story of Christmas, and they are the **point** of the Christmas story

Matthew states that God has invited us to approach Him – not based on our **ability** & what we have **done** but based on what **God** has done for us

When it came to the man most closely associated with Jesus, to his personal life, his morality, his character & ethics, he was at least for a season an incredible, dismal **failure**

Matthew 1:1-6 (NIV) “This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife.”

Matthew draws attention to King David’s biggest failure because that’s the **point** of the story he’s about to tell in his Gospel of Matthew

2 Samuel 7:8-9 (NIV) “⁸Now then, tell My servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over My people Israel. ⁹...Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.’”

2 Samuel 7:11-14 (NIV) “The LORD declares to you that the LORD Himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be My son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.”

God will **discipline** us when we disobey Him because He is a **good** Father who won’t let such things go unnoticed

2 Samuel 7:15-16 (NIV) “¹⁵But My love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever.”

God makes an **unconditional** promise to King David – You can’t build the temple, but your throne, your name, your family, your lineage will be established forever

The Jews understood this to mean the **Messiah** would come from the lineage of David

2 Samuel 11:27 (NAS) “But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.”

2 Samuel 12:11 (NIV) “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes...’”

2 Samuel 12:13 (NIV) “Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’” (See *Psalms 51, David’s confession*)

Though God’s discipline was brutal, His promise to David was **eternal**

David’s **inconsistent** behavior did not override God’s **unconditional** promise; when God makes a promise, God **keeps** His promise

Matthew was about to tell the story of a **new** unconditional promise...not between David & God, but between mankind and God... a promise sealed in **blood**... but only the blood of **one** party... because it was a **promise**, not a contract

Luke 2:10 (NIV) "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"

God is making a promise to **all** people – that includes **you**

Luke 2:11 (NIV) "Today in the town of David..."

Whenever you hear these words, may it be a reminder of the **promise** God made to David, and the promise that God made to **you**

Luke 2:11,13-14 (NIV) "'11 'Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord'...
¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.'"

God promised you **peace**. The only way for you to have peace with God is for God to remove the obstacle to your peace – your **sin**

The reason some of you don't have peace with God is you're continuing to **negotiate** your sin

Good News! You have been invited to step into a relationship with God that is **governed** by an unconditional promise and is **characterized** by grace & forgiveness

- A relationship where you don't have to **negotiate** sin. You are **forgiven**
- A relationship where your **inconsistency** and **lack** of follow-through does not determine your acceptability. You are **accepted**
- Just as God made a promise to David in spite of David, God has made a promise to you in **spite of you**

Like David, your sin may bring **consequences**, but never **separation** – that's the promise of Christmas

Peace is available only for those who are willing to embrace the **price** of peace – which is the price of your Savior's **life** – Have you made that exchange?

[Closing prayer] "Heavenly Father, I believe You are the great Promise Keeper. As You kept Your promise to David, I believe You will keep Your promise to me to forgive me...to accept me...to love me. So I will no longer come to You or avoid You based on what I have or haven't done. Instead, I will come boldly because of what You've done for me through Christ, my Savior and my peace."

My Next Step Today Is...

- I will spend some time this week thinking about the closing prayer and the 3 bullet points above it
 - I will read Psalm 51, David's response to being confronted with his sin of adultery with Bathsheba
- Be sure & join us on **Christmas Eve!!!** [service times 3:30 pm; 4:45 pm (family services) & 6:30 pm (traditional)]