

St James News: Thought for the day – Monday 9th November 2020

Some of the women in the Bible– Revd John Marshall

I have been thinking about the women who appear in the Bible, they make a most important contribution to the story that is told there.

I decided one way to approach this is through the focus of Jesus' genealogy. As you know there are two genealogies of Jesus in the Bible; one in Matthew and one in Luke. They start in different places.

Matthew starts with Abraham and finishes “and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”

Luke starts “Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph the son of Heli.” And finishes or starts, “Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.” What is remarkable is that Luke doesn't mention any women!

[Matthew](#) on the other hand includes Tamar the mother of Perez and Zerah, Rahab the mother of Boaz, Ruth the mother of Obed, Uriah's wife the mother of Solomon, she of course was Bathsheba, and Mary.

Their stories are interesting and form part of the unexpected narrative of the Bible.

The story of Tamar can be found in [Genesis 38](#). She is the daughter in law of Judah, and is very badly treated (she has his children.) He has to admit her righteousness is more than his. Considering the story the justice for women is called into question.

Rahab gave shelter to two spies who came to Jericho; she negotiated safety for her family and showed her astuteness and political awareness. The writer of Hebrews commends her faith.

Ruth remains with her mother in law Naomi and has a whole book of the bible to herself. She comes to Bethlehem a stranger from Moab, but her promise to Naomi was profound. “Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1.16

Bathsheba was seduced by a powerful man, King David. She went on to be the wise mother of a wise son, (some of the time he was wise,) but she also had her share of suffering and bereavement, not least the loss of her first husband and a child.

Finally we come to Mary, who accepted God's challenge, but also experienced sorrow.

We can learn so much from these women. Let us give thanks for their faith and witness.

Which women of faith do we learn from today?