



## Focus on Jesus - Matthew 1:1-25

As we prepare to commemorate Resurrection Sunday, we should be reminded that Jesus is climax of the biblical story. As a result, we should resolve to focus our lives on Jesus. The Bible is all about Jesus. The New Testament opens with his family tree.

As we read the list of Jesus' ancestors, it is encouraging to see that they include Tamar (the adulteress), Rahab (the prostitute), Ruth (the non-Jewish Moabite), Solomon (who was conceived after King David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba), as well as many others. Thankfully, God uses sinful human beings and, therefore, can use us. Whatever your past, however broken your life may seem right now, God can use you to do something great with your life.

The very name 'Jesus' means, 'he will save his people from their sins' (v.21). Every time we use the name Jesus, it reminds us that our greatest need is not for happiness or contentment (although these may both be by-products). Our greatest need, as with Jesus' ancestors, is for forgiveness. Therefore, we need a Savior.

In Jesus, all the promises of God are fulfilled. The beginning of Matthew shows us that Jesus is the completion of all that is recorded in the Old Testament. Jesus is not only the completion of the Old Testament story at a historical level, he is also the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies and all of God's promises.

All of history, prophesy and promise, is completed in Jesus. Your whole life is completed in Jesus. Every part of your life: your work, family, relationships, friends, memories and dreams are completed in Jesus.

So, as we continue through Lent and on to Resurrection Sunday, let us remember who Jesus came to fulfill those promises for. We are the joint heirs of all God promised, and Jesus fulfilled.

