



The Perfect Christmas

SUNDAYS 9 & 10:45 AM
NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 10

11/26/17

CRAIG REES

THE SCARLET THREAD

BOTTOM LINE:

WE PUT SO MUCH EFFORT GETTING EVERYTHING PERFECT THAT WE CAN MISS THE MEANING. LET'S BE CONTENT WITH AN IMPERFECT CHRISTMAS, CELEBRATED PERFECTLY THROUGH THE GIFT OF GRACE.

KEY VERSES:

GENESIS 38

JOSHUA 2

MATTHEW 1

Discussion Questions

1. What was your major takeaway from the message this morning?
2. How do you deal with your 'flaws'? How easy is it for you to accept that you are 'flawed'?
3. Consider the backstories of Tamar and Rahab in the light of Mary's situation. In what ways do the stories line up? In what ways are they different? What do these backstories tell us about the way God views gender, racial and socio-economic boundaries? What implication does this have for the church today?
4. Consider the story of Tamar (Genesis 38), a woman mistreated by powerful men despite the rule of law that protected her. What lessons do we learn from her story in light of current news events?
5. Not everyone who is desired is valued. What lessons do we learn from Tamar and Rahab about the difference between being valued and protected versus desired and used? How do you want people to appreciate you this Christmas season?
6. Rahab expressed her faith in God and her desire to be included amongst God's people, by hanging a scarlet thread from her window. What step of faith do you need to take to surrender your imperfections to God and to enjoy real fellowship with people this Christmas?
7. The word 'imperfect' spells 'I'm perfect.' Matthew omits important kings (1 Chron. 3:Ob-15) and breaks important patterns (Matt 12:49-50) to emphasize how imperfect people are included in the family of God through faith. This was also Matthew's story. If it's yours, take 30 seconds to share with the group what God's perfect love and gift of grace has meant to you.



DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS IN COMMUNITY

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