

Day 5: Unexpected characters

Read

'...and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah...' Matthew 1.5-6 [Read more...](#)

Reflect

Matthew's genealogy included five women. That might not sound earth-shattering, but genealogies normally traced only the men of the family. What makes the appearance of these women even more noteworthy is that four of them were not strictly Jewish: Tamar and Rahab were Canaanites, Ruth was a Moabite and Bathsheba was a Hittite. For all we've said about Matthew emphasising the Jewishness of Jesus' line, here he makes room for Gentiles – and women! None of them had perfect credentials and yet they're written into the ancestry of the Messiah. Your challenge today is include outsiders.

Challenge 1

Think of someone who is overlooked or maligned in your community or workplace. Make time for them today

Challenge 2

Write a note of encouragement to someone whose job puts them in the path of constant criticism

Challenge 3

Take steps to restore a broken friendship