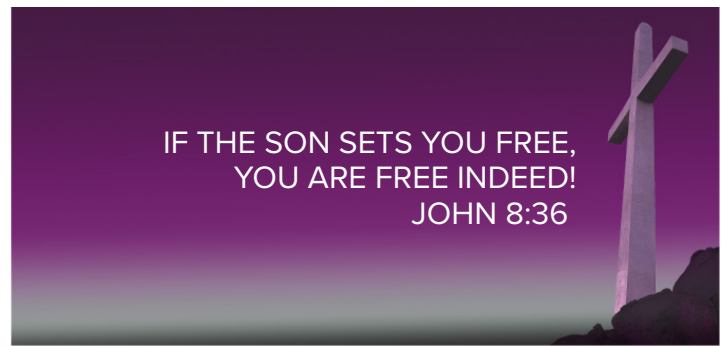


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David the king.” –Matthew 1:5, 6

Both of my parents were born in Uruguay. I knew that my mother’s side was Swiss-German, and my father’s side was probably Spanish-Portuguese. When I was a young woman, my parents visited a *Charrua* native Indian cemetery in Uruguay, and to their surprise they found that many of the tombstones had my paternal grandmother’s last name! I was so excited about the possibility of having a little bit of *Charrua* blood! Someday I will have to take an ancestry test. . . .

The lineage of Jesus was very important for Matthew’s audience, especially His “royal blood” through the Davidic line. But there were a few surprises in the lineage of Jesus that Matthew highlights. And, unlike me, his audience wouldn’t have been too excited about them. Ruth, the great-grandmother of David, lived in Bethlehem with her second husband, Boaz. But Ruth was a Moabite and didn’t really *belong* to the people of Israel. The Moabites came from Moab, and the Ammonites came from Ammon; both forefathers were the product of two incestuous relationships between Lot and his daughters (see Genesis 19:37, 38). Their descendants were not friends of Israel and were not allowed to enter the assembly of the Lord (see Numbers 22; 23; Deuteronomy 23:3). Ruth came to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi, after Naomi’s husband and two sons died in the land of Moab. She refused to leave Naomi, no matter what the cost, and promised to stay with her even until death: “Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die” (Ruth 1:16, 17). In Bethlehem she married Boaz, one of Naomi’s kinsman-redeemers, and they had a son named Obed, who became the grandfather of David. That a Moabite would be mentioned in the *legal* lineage of Jesus points to the Messiah who was Coming to tear down walls of separation that had existed for generations. Do you ever feel like you don’t *belong* because of your background, painful experiences, or past record? Remember that Jesus is proud to be your Brother! You are accepted! You are loved! You are His!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 359.