



Heritage and Legacy

By Bryan Trotter on November 23, 2022

READING: Matthew 1

Where do you come from? No, not your hometown. Where do you really come from? What is your heritage? I find history, and especially my family's history, very intriguing. I started down a rabbit hole years ago on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) to learn about my family that went back to the late 1500s. For my family, the Trotters are originally from Scotland. We have been here since long before the USA was even a country.

History is so much more than just a list of names and places. It is a retelling of people, places and their impact on the world around them. History can also teach us who we were and how not to repeat mistakes from the past.

If you read the names of the genealogy of Christ at face value, it just looks like a list of names. Yet it is much more than just names. The genealogy has some of the most incredible men from the Old Testament. These same men, although incredible, did some really shady things. Even the history of Jesus does not have perfect men. These men were flawed, and some made some really bad choices, but God still used them in His plan.

We have no control over our heritage. Your family's past does not define you. Honestly, your own past does not even define you. Abraham was a liar and doubted God's promise of a son. Jacob deceived his father and exchanged his brother's birthright for a bowl of soup. David was an adulterer and murderer. BUT GOD still used them, and they were not defined by their past. God used them in His greater plan to be a part of the genealogy of Christ. God uses circumstances in your life, both past and present, for His glory. You have the choice today to live for God and be obedient to Him. You can shift the trajectory of your family's legacy to live for God. Your history does not define you, but you can define your legacy.

Today, spend some time in prayer thanking God for His faithfulness, and ask Him to help you leave an incredible legacy of following Christ for future generations.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 2

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