

Slavery, Racism, the Bible, and Us #5

April 27, 2008

Positive Examples of Interracial Marriage in the Bible¹

1. **In the Genealogy of Jesus – Matthew 1**
 - a. Tamar –Canaanite
 - b. Rahab – Canaanite
 - c. Ruth – **Moabite**
 - d. Bathsheba – married to a Hittite
2. **Joseph and Asenath –Gen. 41:45**
 - a. She was the daughter of an Egyptian priest
 - b. Their children:
 - i. Ephriam
 - ii. Manassah
 - c. Two of the **tribes** of Israel were from a Jewish father and an Egyptian mother – 1 Chron. 5:1-2
3. **Moses first wife – Exodus 2:16, 21**
 - a. Married a daughter of the Midianites (the same people who bought Joseph into slavery – Gen. 37:36)
 - b. Compare Moses’ story with that of Isaac and Rachel(!)
4. **Moses’ second wife – Numbers 12:1**
 - a. She is **black** – Jeremiah 13:23
 - b. Miriam (Moses’ sister) was judged by God and turned **white** – Num. 12:10
5. **Esther (although this is forced) – book of Esther**

¹Craig Keener, “The Bible and Interracial Marriage” in *Just Don’t Marry One*, eds. George and Shereilyn Yancey

Negative Examples of Interracial Marriages in Scripture

1. **Samson**
2. Ahab and Jezebel
3. Solomon and many non-Jewish wives

“But Pastor, God Has Set Boundaries for Different Races” – Acts 17:26

1. The focus here is on God . . .
2. Who has made all humans from the first human (Adam)
3. Who has set boundaries (seas, mountain ranges, rivers, etc.)
4. This says nothing about interracial marriage

“But Pastor, the Jews Were Not Allowed to Marry Outside Their Race.”

1. Actually, the Jews were not allowed to marry outside their **faith** – Deuteronomy 7:3-4
2. Marriage to non-Jews was allowed if the non-Jew **converted** to Judaism – Ruth, Uriah, etc.

In Christ,

1. All Gentile Christians Are Converts to the God of **Abraham** – Romans 2:29; 4
2. We are one spiritual race – 1 Cor. 10:32
3. By His death and resurrection, Jesus has shattered racial **barriers** between us – Ephesians 2:14
4. There are no “unclean” in Christ – Acts 10:28
5. The NT addresses the issue of Christian marriage directly . . . and says Christians are free to marry **fellow believers** of Jesus Christ – 1 Cor 7(!)