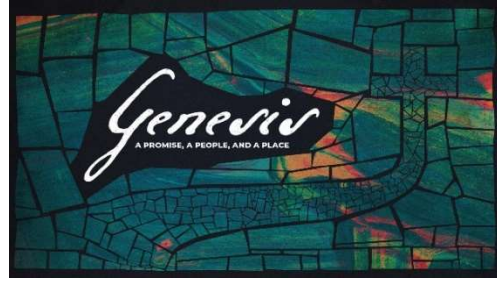


Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: April 21, 2024

Text: Genesis 38

Preacher: Jerrod



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Pursuing Your Sin Won't Stop God from Producing His Promises

The promised seed and coming Son of Genesis 3:15 is where the story of Genesis takes its cues. We have followed that line to Jacob, and of consideration now is which son will carry it on? Rueben, the firstborn, slept with his father's concubine (35:22), and the second and third-born, Simeon and Levi, don't seem to be good candidates either as they slaughtered the Shechemites. Up next? Well, last week in chapter 37 we began to consider Joseph, as he is sold into slavery in Egypt. In chapter 38, the author pauses that storyline, to bring our attention to son and line of Judah. Joseph is Jacob's firstborn through Rachel, but in the end, Judah through Leah will be God's choice, as Judah himself is redeemed. One read through our chapter on the twisted sin of Judah and his sons may leave you scratching your head - "Really... this is the line that Christ will come from!?" Such is the grace and providence of God. God chooses His path of promise and salvation that leaves us at the end of the day saying, only God would and only God could do this. Jesus' family tree is full of sinners, leading up to Jesus, AND following from Him. Such is the family of God, justified by grace through repentance and faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 38:1-5

1. What about these verses seems ominous?
 - a. Note the Genesis 3 Fall pattern of "Saw...took...went in (partook)".
 - b. Also note Genesis 24:2-3 and the concern for being unequally yoked.

Read Genesis 38:6-30

2. Retell the story in your own words.
3. Why is the "need for a son" significant? - immediately in this passage, but also broadly in the storyline of the Bible?
4. From a biblical storyline perspective, why is it significant that both Judah and Onan refuse and/or are unwilling to give up, contribute, or produce a son/seed?
5. How is a son provided?
 - a. How does this story of Judah and his sons fit into the larger redemptive story of the Bible?
 - i. Consider Genesis 49:9-12; Ruth 4:18-22; and Matthew 1:1-3,16.
 - ii. What makes this remarkable, good news, for us all for what it requires to be numbered in His family?

Key Takeaways:

1. Where do you see steps of compromise in Judah's life? How did things escalate so quickly?
 - a. Why do people tend to have such a low view of sex?
2. Have you seen God remain faithful and good through a sinful relationship or sinful season?
3. Where do you see grace shown to both Judah and Tamar in this passage?
 - a. What fruit of grace can be seen in Judah, and how does it correct a view of grace that would give license to 'continue to sin so that grace may abound'?