

Message by Gerry Breshears  
May 8-9, 2010  
Judah and Tamar, Genesis 38

Questions for Discussion:

1. Read the passage. What things stand out? What observations can you make about this passage? How do these kinds of stories in the OT affect you? Can you identify with the people in the story in any way?
2. Judah's sons both lived shortened lives. What does the scripture say was the cause of their deaths? Why did God not do the same to Judah and his brothers? Do you think there some purpose behind the loss of his sons? Does God deal with everyone in the same way? Do you believe that He deals with people so severely today?
3. Why do you think that Judah was so 'shifty' with his daughter-in-law? Did he have legitimate reason to think that something might happen to his other son? What about Tamar? Was she 'righteous' in this story? Was it ok for her to deceive her father-in-law? Why or why not?
4. This story seems to end very 'quietly' and without a bunch of flair. Dr. Breshears pointed us at the real 'end' of the story when he brought us to the Judah's actions in front of Joseph in Egypt. What does this tell you about Judah's repentance (from Gen. 38:26)? How does Judah act now towards his own life when Benjamin's life is threatened? Is he focused on himself anymore? Do you think this is a significant change, or is it just a momentary chivalrous act?
5. What does this story reveal to you about God and how God deals with us? Do you think that the 'gory detail' of the Old Testament stories goes too far in describing everything that happened? Why do you think scriptures like this spend so much time on the brokenness of the people in the story? How does this story point us to the Gospel (the Good News about our rescue from sin by God, Himself)? What does it reveal about the character of God?
6. Read Ex. 34:6-7. This is God's introduction of Himself for the first time in the Scriptures. What does God reveal about Himself?