



Weak Men Make Hard Times

Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 38 – Week of May 28, 2023

1. Judah sows to his own flesh

Judah continues his pattern of folly, and pursues the ways of the flesh. He leaves his family, and mingles amongst the Canaanites. This leads him to cultivating the passions of his flesh, and uniting himself to a woman of the land. The only description that scripture gives as the reasoning for Judah's attraction is what he perceived with his eyes... his attraction was purely physical. Judah disregards the commandments of God, and binds himself to a pagan (Genesis 28:1). Judah forgets that there is no partnership between light and dark, or righteousness with lawlessness. In disobedience, Judah sows to his own flesh.

2. Judah reaps corruption

We see that the seed sown by Judah in sin reaps a corrupted harvest. Judah's wife conceives and bears three sons. Scripture continues to show Judah's abdication of his role, as he is becoming a seemingly absent father. Furthermore, his children adopt wickedness in their conduct. Judah marries his firstborn to a pagan woman, Tamar. Er, was simply wicked, and the Lord killed him for it. This left Tamar as a widow. Judah's second born Onan defied God by not fulfilling his duty to his brother's wife. Both these sons persisted in their sin, prompting the Lord to act. In response to his son's deaths, Judah lies to Tamar and does not give to her his third son. Events continue to conspire to a terrible conclusion, in which the sinful passions of Judah lead him to seeking the company of a prostitute. Unbeknownst to him, the prostitute was Tamar in disguise. This union leads her to conceive a child, sired by her father-in-law. Judah continues to reap wicked rewards from his flesh.

3. Judah sows to the Spirit

Judah's corruption finally gets brought into the spotlight,

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Our actions have consequences. God's rules for our lives are not just for His glory, but they bring about flourishing. We must submit ourselves to the reign of Christ in our lives, and not sow to our own flesh. Our flesh can only bring corruption, but that which is sown in the Spirit will bring about eternal life.

Heart

We must discipline and deny our flesh, as it will seek our destruction. We should be quick to confess our sins and repent, as the Lord is faithful to forgive and restore.

Hands

Hold fast to the precepts and instruction of the Lord. Deny the flesh, and faithfully commit to all that the Lord has commanded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Shane Farewell Party
6/11 @ 1pm

as he attempts to punish Tamar for infidelity. In this moment, Judah's eyes are finally opened. He sees that he is worthy of the punishment he was about to inflict upon his daughter. It is at this confluence of events that he finally sees his sin and confesses that it is he who is wrong. This is the first time that we see him act in the way of God's mercy.

4. Judah reaps eternal life

Judah confesses his sin, and then we see a change in his behavior. We see later on in scripture the redemption of this terrible man. God would go on to use him in a mighty way to fulfill His plan. Judah, through grotesque circumstances, is instrumental in bringing about Christ. This is God's incredible mercy, in that the Lord takes dark, broken, and painful circumstances and can ultimately redeem them into something beautiful.

Read Galatians 6:7-8, Genesis 38

1. What is the principle that we can learn from Galatians 6:7-8?
2. What does it mean to be “equally yoked?” Why is this concept so important? What are the consequences, both in the passage and in our current life, of ignoring this instruction?
3. What duty was placed on Onan (See Deuteronomy 25:5-6)? Why was his action so disdained by God? What does it tell us about his character?
4. **Read Verse 11** What was Tamar’s impossible position at the end of verse 11? What alternative actions could she have taken?
5. Pastor Jan had mentioned that “fathers are the thermostat of the family.” What does this mean? What responsibilities do husbands/fathers have. How is it different the wives/mothers?
6. What was Judah’s response to Tamar’s pregnancy? What does this show us about the blindness of hypocrisy?
7. **Read Verse 26** How do we see repentance from Judah in this passage?
8. How do we see the redemption and rebirth of Judah in scripture? In what way does God bring good out of the evil of the story of Judah?