



Family Christmas (with Tamar)

Week 1

Praise to God for today: Psalm 100

Lord, we pray this Christmas season that we may make a joyful noise to You, (all the earth)! That we may serve You with gladness and come into Your presence with singing! We pray that others will come to know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. May we be a thankful people, full of praise! We give thanks to You; we bless Your name! For You are good; Your steadfast love endures forever, and Your faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer for the persecuted church:

We pray for the persecuted church in the Philippines. For the Christian leaders there who distributed Bibles in the Maranao language, stepping out boldly in faith and were then met with harsh backlash for their actions. We pray that Your presence and power, Holy Spirit, will continue to empower them to speak and distribute the word of God with boldness. Make them bright lights in that country.

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Dave Dick and Canyon Lake Community Church. We pray that they may be a sweet aroma of Christ to people in the surrounding communities. Make known through them the knowledge of Christ in every place.

Closing:

Knowing that You are glorified when our prayers come out of our relationship with Christ, we pray that today's church will focus all the more on abiding in His holy presence (John 15:7-8). We pray that the church in America will experience the kind of revival that moves every Christian to reverentially live in awe of God. We pray that in

acknowledging Your presence, we will continually praise and glorify Your wonderful name (Psalm 22:23). Knowing that Your lovingkindness toward us is great, we pray that we will purposefully exalt Jesus by continually offering up thanks to You (Psalm 86:12-13).

- **Nazi Family History**

Matthew 1:1-3

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,

The grace of the gospel can be seen in the family tree of Jesus. Not only did the perfect Son of God come for sinners, He came from sinners.

So, we know that we have a Savior who can relate to us. He knows our weakness and yet He remained sinless.

1 Corinthians 1:27-28

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the

strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

He made Himself of no reputation. He does not glory in the flesh.

In His ministry, Jesus not only associated with the lowly — He came from the lowly. Not only was He the friend of sinners — He was the relative of sinners.

Genesis 38

38 It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite (A-jull-amite), whose name was Hirah. **2** There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua (Shoe-ah). He took her and went in to her, **3** and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er. **4** She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan. **5** Yet again she bore a son, and she called his name Shelah (Shell-ah). Judah was in Chezib when she bore him.

Verses 1 - 5 tell us that Judah had three sons — Er, Onan and, the youngest by quite a few years, Shelah.

6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. **7** But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death.

That is quite a troubling statement. And the lighter your view of sin the more troubling it will probably be to you. But if you believe the

wages of sin is death, then God is always just when He puts the wicked to death. It's what we all deserve. Right now. If you are alive right now at this very moment, it is by the grace of God, because what you deserve is death.

8 Then Judah said to Onan, “Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother.” **9** But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother. **10** And what he did was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also.

- **Unhealthy family patterns — that's a generous way to put it.**

11 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, “Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up”—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.

- **Judah's false promise to Tamar**
- **It appears the unhealthy pattern in this family was extreme self-interest. In other words, they would only do something if it immediately benefited them personally.**

12 In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. **13** And when Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to

Timnah to shear his sheep,” **14** she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage. **15** When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. **16** He turned to her at the roadside and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” **17** He answered, “I will send you a young goat from the flock.” And she said, “If you give me a pledge, until you send it—” **18** He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. **19** Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

20 When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her. **21** And he asked the men of the place, “Where is the cult prostitute who was at Enaim at the roadside?” And they said, “No cult prostitute has been here.”

- **He wasn't just soliciting a prostitute, but a cult prostitute. He was supporting a false religion.**

22 So he returned to Judah and said, “I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, ‘No cult prostitute has been here.’” **23** And Judah replied, “Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her.”

24 About three months later Judah was told, “Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” **25** As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant.” And she said, “Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” **26** Then Judah identified them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again.

27 When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. **28** And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.” **29** But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Therefore his name was called Perez. **30** Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

- **Contrasting Tamar's pregnancy with Mary's pregnancy**
- **Tamar conceived because of a broken promise by an unrighteous man.**
- **Mary conceived because of the promise God made.**

Ruth 4:11-12

11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily

in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, 12 and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman.”

The scarlet thread that runs through the Bible:

- **animal killed to provide clothing for Adam & Eve (blood was shed so they could be covered)**
- **the ram that took Isaac’s place on the altar (here we see substitution, a ram died in the place of his son)**
- **the blood of the lamb that marked the homes that death would passover**
- **the scarlet rope of Rahab**
- **all the sacrifices for all the years in the temple foreshadowing the final once and for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ**
- **all the way to John the Baptist’s declaration: “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”**
- **to the cross where Jesus spills His blood and says, “It is finished.”**

Now, what are we to make of this story of this unrighteous family line of Jesus? What is the application for us today? There are several.

- **God uses the lowly and despised to bring about His plan of redemption, so that no man or woman will take any credit for what God alone has done for us in Christ.**
- **Because of the dishonor of His family line, we seek no one and nothing besides Him. By grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone on the basis of the Word alone for the glory of God alone.**
- **The way God has unfolded His plan of redemption shows us that He did not and does not need the help of humanity in any way, shape or form. He will bring about salvation for His people in spite of themselves.**

How does this passage speak to the unbeliever? How does it call you to repentance and belief?

- **Do not be a person of narrow self-interest, only concerned about you and yours — your family alone. Do not take so much pride in your family stock if you come from the upper classes. Do not be the person who says, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people. I’m so much better. I don’t come from a family of Nazis and murderers and prostitutes.” But**

if you are human, then you must admit that you are a relative of humanity. If you say, “Yes, of course, I am a relative of humanity,” then you are related to Charles Manson. You can stop bragging now. This is why the message of Christianity is not that some need Jesus. He isn’t an option. He’s the only option if you want to know the God of the universe. The first step is admitting your own sinfulness.

- **Christians, deal thoroughly with your own sins before you even attempt to deal with the sins of others.**
- **This story shows us how humbling it was for God to take on human flesh. As soon as the Second Person of the Triune God took on human flesh, He made Himself less in the eyes of the very people He created. He made Himself of no reputation.**
- **This account reminds us that we are all sinners deserving of God’s judgment, whether upper classes or lower classes. Therefore, as Christians, we should walk in humility. We can find unity in that we know we’re all sinners.**

What does this passage say to the employee and employer?

- **Keep your word. Keep your promises. Don’t force someone into a situation where they might be tempted to make sinful decisions because you pushed them into a corner by not keeping your word. Because God keeps His word toward us, we can keep our word toward others.**