

Genesis 38

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SERMON NOTES

Genesis

In the beginning...

Genesis 38

When Family Life Gets Messy...

1. The importance of establishing and maintaining a family context of commitment to the LORD
2. The Divine prerogative to define evil and determine when God will put an end to it
3. The grace of God in being interested in us even when we have not been interested in Him
4. How easy double standards are to adopt when we are judging others
5. How God intends to accomplish His purposes even if it means He chooses and uses people and events that seem undesirable and unlikely

“As regards my own sins, it is a safe bet (though not a certainty) that the excuses are not really so good as I think; as regards other men’s sins against me, it is a safe bet (though not a certainty) that the excuses are better than I think.”

- C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

“For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives that belong to God alone; God accepts penalties that belong to man alone.”

- John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

“What elicits tenderness from Jesus is not the severity of the sin but whether the sinner comes to Him. Whatever our offense, He deals gently with us. If we never come to Him, we will experience a judgment so fierce it will be like a double-edged sword coming out of His mouth at us. If we do come to Him, as fierce as his lion-like judgment would have been against us, so deep will be His lamb-like tenderness for us.”

- Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*