

AWKWARD.

Pastor Bill Meiter

April 27 & 28, 2024 #3

“HOW ONE MAN’S FEAR CREATED AN AWKWARD MESS”

TODAY’S PASSAGE:

Genesis 38:24-26 ESV... 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.

JESUS IS THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

- One of the most majestic titles given to Jesus is Lion of Judah... Rev. 5:5
- Judah was one of the 12 sons of Jacob and was even called a lion... Gen. 49:9
- Judah was one of the primary conspirators involved with selling Joseph... Gen. 37:26-27
- Just how flawed Judah was can be seen in his treatment of Tamar... Gen. 38:24-26

JUDAH’S MORAL SHORTCOMINGS

- Judah had three sons... Er, Onan, Shelah. The first of which married Tamar... Gen. 38:2-7
- Levirate marriage: If a man dies without having any children of his own... his unmarried brother would bear children with his widow... to provide an heir for the deceased individual... Deut. 25:5-6
- Onan would not fulfill his responsibilities... Gen. 38:8-10
- Judah tells Tamar to return to her father and wait for Shelah to grow up... Gen. 38:8-10

TAMAR'S CUNNING PLAN

- Tamar disguises herself as a prostitute. . . Gen. 38-13-18
- Tamar exposes Judah as the father of her children. . . Gen. 38:24-26

FEAR IS OFTEN THE SPRINGBOARD INTO AWKWARD MESSES

- King Saul let fear create an awkward mess. . . 1 Samuel 15:13-24
- The fear of man is a snare. . . Prov. 29:25
- Peter let fear create two awkward messes. . . Luke 22:33-34; Gal. 2:11-13
- Would you still come to church if you had to pass through protestors to get onto campus?

HOW GOD REDEEMS JUDAH'S AWKWARD MESS

- This is a turning point in Judah's life! Judah becomes a changed man. . . Gen 44:33
- It is through the line of Perez that the Messiah would eventually come. . . Matt. 1:2-1
- It is the Lord who will deliver us from our fears. . . Psalm 34:4
- Never underestimate the power of fear to create awkward messes!!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How did Judah's fear create an awkward mess?
2. Has fear ever created an awkward mess in your life? When?
3. Why was Tamar more righteous than Judah?
4. What fears can you commit to the Lord this week?



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