January 15, 2017

**Judah & Tamar - Grown Children Disasters**

*Genesis 38, Matthew 1:1-6*

* Genesis 38 can be hard to appreciate from our time and culture. The Lord’s only appearances in the story are in verses 7 and 10 where He acts harshly, why? Why is everyone else allowed to make choices, however wrong, in the story?
* How does God use Judah’s struggle (losing a wife and 2 sons), and his foolishness (marrying a Canaanite and unwittingly impregnating his daughter-in-law) to prepare him to connect Jacob with Joseph again?
* What three things did Judah do right (Genesis 38:6, 26)? How was God able to work with that?
* Why does the rest of the Bible highlight Perez, the son of Judah and Tamar, as God’s gift (Ruth 4:12; Nehemiah 11:6; Matthew 1:1-6; Luke 3:33)?
* If God can bring good from a mess like this, will He have any problem with your struggles and foolishness (Romans 8:38-39)?
* What does God require of us (John 3:16; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:1-2)?
* Based on God’s grace towards us, how should we deal with the foolishness of our own children (John 8:10-11)?