

Genesis 38 serves as a kind of disruption from the story of Joseph. It's a secondary study of another brother, Judah, serving a very important purpose in the greater narrative of Scripture.

Genesis 38:1-30

Judah

and

Tamar

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

God's Word contains some interesting and sometimes troubling passages. While many accounts are difficult to understand or make sense of, others are dark, even morbid. Then there are also those passages that appear highly bizarre. In all these accounts, it's important to remember it's all God's Word, in its place for a reason.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW do you tend to approach Scripture when it's awkward and "off-color"?

WHY do you think God allows even sexualized accounts of His people to appear in His Word?

HOW relatable are these kinds of "off-color" issues for us today? **ARE** they still relevant and important for us to consider?

WHY do you think we are susceptible to such deplorable kinds of sins, even as followers of Christ?

Genesis 38:1-30

Judah and Tamar

Read Genesis 38:1-30

OBSERVATION

As the passage begins, who (and where) does Judah go from, and where does he go to (vs. 1-2)?

In vs. 2, who does Judah decide to marry?

According to vs. 6, what is true of Judah's firstborn?

In vs. 9, what is Onan's motivation in refusing a child to Tamar?

What solution does Judah determine for Tamar in vs. 11?

In vs. 12-19, where does Judah go and what plan does Tamar execute?

According to vs. 20-23, how does Judah's plan backfire?

How does Judah present himself as a hypocrite in vs. 24-26?

What were the names given to Tamar's twins, born to Judah?

INTERPRETATION

How has Judah already shown himself disloyal to his brothers? See Genesis 37:26-27.

Why is the specific company Judah chooses so devastating? Consider Proverbs 18:24 and 1 Corinthians 15:33. Have we seen this compromise before with Jacob's family?

Why were Judah's sons obligated to care for Tamar, and why was Onan reluctant to do so? See Deut. 25:5-6.

What did Tamar apparently know about Judah and where he would be during the time of sheep shearing?

Why do you think the lifestyle of the Canaanites and their women, particularly were such a stumbling block for God's people?

Does Judah appear to be repentant of his folly? Consider vs. 26 in your response.

Why is Perez, the offspring of this sinful mess, such an important part of the greater Biblical narrative? Consider Matthew 1:2-3, 16.

Why is Ruth compared to Tamar in Ruth 4:11-12? What is the correlation between these two women?

APPLICATION

Are there ways you find yourself compromising with the world? How can you take steps to change your behavior?