

How To Goof Up Your Life

Genesis 38:1-30

Introduction

I The Beginning Of The End

- A. Judah **left** his brothers and stayed with Hirah - Heb 10:24-25
- B. Judah **married** the daughter of a Canaanite - 2 Cor 6:14-15
- C. Judah's wife gave birth to Er, Onan and Shelah

II The Spiraling Life Of Judah's Family

- A. Judah got Tamar for his son, Er
 - 1. But Er was **wicked** in the Lord's sight - Gen 13:13
 - 2. The Lord put him to **death** - Eph 6:4; Dt 6:4-9, 21
- B. Judah told his 2nd son, Onan to:
 - 1. Lie with Er's wife to produce offspring - Dt 25:5-10
 - 2. But Onan **refused**
 - a. What he did was **wicked** in the Lord's sight
 - b. The Lord put him to **death**
- C. Judah told Tamar to live in her father's house
 - 1. Until his 3rd son Shelah grew up
 - a. Judah was **afraid** Shelah might die

III The Spiraling Life Of Judah And Tamar

- A. After Judah's wife **died** he went to Timnah - Ps 55:23; Is 57:1
 - 1. To shear sheep with his friend, Hirah
- B. Tamar took things into her **own hands**
 - 1. She took off her widow clothes and disguised herself
 - 2. She sat at the entrance to Enaim near Timnah
- C. The unraveling choices of Judah's life - Prov 6:25-29, 32-33
 - 1. He **saw** a woman he thought was a prostitute - Lk 11:34-35
 - 2. He propositioned her - Job 24:15
 - 3. He **negotiated** the price
 - 4. He offered his seal and staff as a pledge
 - 5. He **slept** with her and impregnated her - 1 Cor 6:15-20
 - 6. He fulfilled his promise to provide a goat
 - a. But the shrine prostitute could not be found
 - 7. He let her keep his seal and staff
 - a. He didn't want to be a **laughing** stock

IV The Spiraling Consequences Of Sin

- A. Judah discovered that Tamar was:
 - 1. Guilty of **prostitution** and was pregnant
- B. Judah's verdict was swift and brutal - Dt 22:20-24; Lev 21:9
 - 1. "Bring her out and have her **burned** to death!" - Rom 2:1
- C. Judah was given a message by Tamar: - Eccl 12:14
 - 1. I am pregnant by the man who owns this **seal** and **staff**
- D. Judah recognized the seal and staff as his own - 2 Sam 12:5-7
 - 1. He acknowledged her **righteousness** - 1 Sam 24:16-18
 - 2. He did not **sleep** with Tamar again - 2 Cor 7:10-11
- E. She had two sons: Perez and Zerah - Ruth 4:12; Mt 1:3

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Out of all the decisions you have ever made, which one, in your opinion, represents your biggest "goof up"?
- 2. Judah wrote the book on How To Goof Up Your Life:
 - a. Fail to place a high priority on your relationship with God
 - b. Separate yourself from the family of God
 - c. Choose the wrong friends
 - d. Marry an unbelieving spouse
 - e. Fail to raise your children to know and obey the Lord
 - f. Be a sexually immoral person
 - g. Be a hypocritical judge of othersWhat lessons or warnings do you carry away from this list?
- 3. Neither Judah nor Tamar are examples of godliness, but both are ultimately in the family line of Christ (Ruth 4:12; Mt 1:3)! What does this teach you about the kind of people that God chooses? [Hint: Read 1 Cor 1:26-31]
- 4. Take a moment to repent of any known sin and then thank God for His forgiveness, His grace, His love, His salvation and His generosity in including you in family line of the Messiah!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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