



familytree

**“Tamar’s Branch”
Matthew 1:1-3; Genesis 38**

 **westchurch**

1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

- Matthew 1:1-3a

17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

- Matthew 1:17

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11 Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “Live as a widow in your father’s household until my son Shelah grows up.” For he thought, “He may die too, just like his brothers.” So Tamar went to live in her father’s household.

12 After a long time Judah’s wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him.

13 When Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep,”

14 she took off her widow’s clothes, covered herself with a veil to disguise herself, and then sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that, though Shelah had now grown up, she had not been given to him as his wife.

15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.

16 Not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the roadside and said, “Come now, let me sleep with you.”

“And what will you give me to sleep with you?” she asked.

17 “I’ll send you a young goat from my flock,” he said.

“Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?” she asked.

18 He said, “What pledge should I give you?”

“Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand,” she answered. So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him.

19 After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow’s clothes again.

- Genesis 38:11-19

The Big Idea

God cares about the marginalized, the broken-hearted, and those society would prefer to conveniently ignore.

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- Genesis 38:17b-19

20 Meanwhile Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get his pledge back from the woman, but he did not find her. 21 He asked the men who lived there, “Where is the shrine prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?”

“There hasn’t been any shrine prostitute here,” they said.

22 So he went back to Judah and said, “I didn’t find her. Besides, the men who lived there said, ‘There hasn’t been any shrine prostitute here.’”

23 Then Judah said, “Let her keep what she has, or we will become a laughingstock. After all, I did send her this young goat, but you didn’t find her.”

- Genesis 38:20-23

24 About three months later Judah was told,
“Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of
prostitution, and as a result she is now
pregnant.”

Judah said, “Bring her out and have her burned
to death!”

- Genesis 38:24

25 As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law.

“I am pregnant by the man who owns these,” she said. And she added,

“See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are.”

- Genesis 38:25

26 Judah recognized them and said,
“She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn’t
give her to my son Shelah.”

- Genesis 38:26

17 Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.

- Isaiah 1:17

5 A father to the fatherless,
a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

- Psalm 68:5

“When God sees people who have resources not aiding those who don’t, God does not call this stinginess, He calls it injustice.”

- Tim Keller

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- Genesis 38:26

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26 *Judah* said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?”

27 Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

28 So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

- Genesis 37:26-28

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33 “Now then, *please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy*, and let the boy return with his brothers.

34 How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.”

- Genesis 44:33-34

8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

- Philippians 2:8