

Genesis 38 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - Bad Company.

Genesis 38:1-2

Separation from the world is especially important in the matter of the friends that we choose. Judah befriended Hirah, the Adullamite, who was always present when Judah got into trouble (Gen. 38:1-2, 12-16). “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals’” (1 Cor. 15:33). James writes, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?” (James 4:4). Read Genesis 19

☐ Tuesday - Grace Alone.

Genesis 38:12-13

The nation of Israel had a rather checkered beginning: repeated lies & deception (12:10-19, 20:1-13, 26:6-10, 27:1-29, 31:20; 34:13), murder (34:25-26), idolatry (31:19, 35:2), harlotry & incest (38:12-18). The book of Genesis records too many skeletons in Israel’s closet for the Jews to look back upon their ancestry with any smugness or pride. Whatever good had come to Israel was the result of *grace alone* (Deut. 7:7-8). But this lesson was forgotten by the Jews in Jesus’ day who relied upon their ancestral roots for righteousness (Mt. 3:9; Jn. 8:33). Christian, remember, “by *grace* you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). For this reason, God’s people should never exhibit a “holier than thou” attitude.

Read Romans 2:17-29, 11:17-22

☐ Wednesday - Akin to the Lowly.

Genesis 38:12-18

In Jesus’ ancestry, we read of Judah’s incest with Tamar (Gen. 38:6-30) and David’s adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11). In Christ’s ancestral line flowed the blood of Rahab, the Canaanite harlot (Josh 2), and Ruth, the Moabite (Ruth 1:4), whose people were accursed (Deut 23:3-5). Yes, Jesus is akin to the lowly and the fallen and He will show His love to the poorest and most ignoble who turn away from their sin to Him (cf. Mt 21:31). “For though the Lord is exalted, yet He regards the lowly” (Psa 138:6). Yes, He even chooses “the foolish things of the world to shame the wise” and “the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong” (1 Cor 1:27).

Read Isaiah 57:15

☐ Thursday - Log Eye.

Genesis 38:24

Spirituality is not evidenced by the standards which we hold for others, no matter how vigorous. No, God judges men on the basis of those standards by which they live their own lives. Judah was willing to burn Tamar for the very sin which he himself had committed. The New Testament reiterates this concept: “Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things” (Rom. 2:1).

Read Matthew 7:1-5

☐ Friday - A One-Way Mirror.

Genesis 38:24

“Now it was about three months later that Judah was informed, ‘Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the harlot, and behold, she is also with child by harlotry.’ Then Judah said, ‘Bring her out and let her be burned!’” (Gen. 38:24). Judah, who thought nothing of his own harlotries, called for the death of his daughter-in-law for the same transgression. O how indignant we are toward the sins of others and blind to our own! Sin is a one-way mirror that allows us to see the imperfections in others, but reflects none of our own. God’s Word is the only true mirror (James 1:22-25).

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-12:9