**Genesis 38-39: Judah And Life Of Joseph II**

A comparison between Judah and Joseph; Judah fails while Joseph shines.

I. Judah And Tamar.

Through an ungodly and unwise marriage to a Canaanite woman Judah fathered three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah. It isn't hard to see the sons of Israel rapidly being corrupted by their Canaanite neighbors. We are never told what Er's wickedness was, but obviously it was bad enough that God condemned him.

According to the custom of Levirate marriage (later law in Deuteronomy 25:5-10), if a man died before providing sons to his wife, it was the duty of his brothers to marry her and to give her sons. Onan refused to take this responsibility though was sexually gratifying himself, God condemned him too.

Judah's wife dies, Shelah is grown and Tamar realizes Judah will never give his last son to fulfill the obligation to her. Tamar sets a trap for Judah, and he has sex with her. After negotiating the price, Tamar demanded a pledge of the future payment of the agreed-upon price (a young goat). Judah sends a friend to pay Tamar, and to retrieve the pledge he left with her. Because Tamar had disappeared, he gives up the pledge, leaving it in her hands. When she was accused of harlotry, her defense was the owner of the pledge she had. Tamar makes the logical appeal that the one who hired her is just as guilty as she was.

_**Numbers 32:23** – But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out._

_**Proverbs 10:9** – He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known._

_**Proverbs 11:3** – The Integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them._

Tamar gives birth to twins, Perez and Zera.

_**Matthew 1:3** and _**Luke 3:33** each list Perez as an ancestor of Jesus the Messiah. God took the son of this ungodly situation and put him in the family line of the Messiah, despite the fact that neither Judah or Tamar were examples of godliness._
II. Joseph in Egypt.
   i. Joseph’s faithfulness.

Joseph's trial was probably worse than any of us have gone through. He had no control over his circumstances, God did and He was up to some great plans. **God's will is that we trust Him to bless us wherever we are. We Christians should be the best employees wherever God places us.**

*Matthew 23:11* – But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.
*Matthew 28:20b* …I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

*1 Corinthians 4:2* – Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

*Colossians 3:17* – And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

ii. Joseph’s Integrity.

Joseph called the act as **this great wickedness and sin against God.**

*2 Timothy 2:22* - Flee also youthful lusts.

*1 Corinthians 10:13* – No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to, but with every temptation will also make the way of escape that you may be able to bear it.

It must have offended and grieved Joseph to be falsely accused. Yet he did not seem to defend himself against this false accusation, even as Jesus was silent before His accusers (*Isaiah 53:7 and Matthew 27:13-14*). It seems that Joseph was given a sentence of life imprisonment.

*The LORD was with Joseph, (His master saw it), the LORD prospered him, his work and his boss*…If God saved Joseph from the pit, if He blessed Joseph the slave, we are not be surprised to see Him bless Joseph in prison.

*Proverbs 16:8* – Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice.

*Proverbs 22:1* – A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold.

*Proverbs 28:6* – Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than one perverse in his ways though he be rich.