



My God Will Use All Things for His Purpose

9.3.23

Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 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. Genesis 37:26–27 NIV

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. Genesis 38:11 NIV

When Judah saw [Tamar], he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 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.” Genesis 38:15 NIV

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 NIV

Judah... said, “She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn’t give her to my son Shelah.” When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. Genesis 38:26-27 NIV

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar... Mathew 1:1–3 NIV

Judah speaks to Joseph about taking the place of Benjamin: “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. Genesis 44:33 NIV

“Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons will bow down to you. You are a lion’s cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk. Genesis 49:8–12

My God will Use All Things for HIS Purpose

For your LifeGroup and personal growth...

Like Joseph, we all eventually face trials, but sometimes we find out in hindsight that our trials prepared us for something that was yet to come.

Can you think of or share about a time in your life where your struggles in one season proved helpful to you or someone you know in another season?

Review Genesis 37 and read Genesis 38 together. How would you describe your feelings about the kind of man Judah is from these passages?

Reflect on your own life. In what ways have you changed for the better from the person you once were, to the person you now are today? Talk about (and pray about) any pit you may be in.

Compare your impression of Judah in chapter 37-38 with Jacob’s final words to Judah in Genesis 49:8-12. It’s clear there’s been a significant change in Judah, the man. How do you think we can use the stories of people like Judah to remember the long term value and the ways in which God works in and through the lives of people with a questionable past?

How do you think we can be patient through our own seasons of ups and downs to trust that God may be using not just my blessings, but maybe also my present pain, for His purposes?