

Sermon: *The Breakthrough Power of Grace*
Series: *Joseph: Trusting the Goodness of God*

Scripture: Gen. 38:1-30
Date: February 16, 2020

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?

How does Judah show us the connection between inner sins like self-righteousness and outer sins like sexual sin and injustice?

Where do you see self-righteousness in your own heart? Where might you be blaming others or condemning others? Have you separated yourself from someone for self-righteous reasons?

The world says “it’s just sex.” But how is sexual sin an overflow of a heart of injustice and self-righteousness? What makes it so dangerous? How can you confront it in your own life?

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

This is another passage where God is not overtly mentioned, but is he at work? How?

3) What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace? How does it point to Christ?

How does Tamar receive both grace and justice? How does this point to the cross?

Judah’s sin was confronted and identified by Tamar. How is that grace? Where might God be confronting your sin and asking you to identify your unrighteousness today?

How does this story point to Jesus the “better Judah?” Compare Judah’s response to Tamar with Jesus’ response to the woman in John 8:1-11?

APPLICATION

How does this passage comfort you? Encourage you? Challenge you?

PRAYER

Praise God for his grace in your life that would confront your sin. Identify areas of your life where self-righteousness has crept in. Thank God for the cross that brings both grace and justice into your life.