

Mission Clarity

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, October 22nd; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: God can use the greatest of human sinfulness to accomplish His work of redemption, sovereignly orchestrating all things to ensure the line that leads to Jesus. However, with the coming of Christ, we must have mission clarity to love Jesus, obey His commands, and evangelize the lost.

I. The Line Threatened – Read Genesis 38:1-11 and answer the following questions.

- A. Why do you think the author of Genesis interrupts the Joseph narrative to tell us about Judah?
- B. What stands out to you about Judah's family? How does Deuteronomy 25:5-10 and the law concerning levirate marriage help you understand why Onan's actions were so sinful?
- C. What are your thoughts about Judah's decision to withhold Shelah and send Tamar back home?
- D. In what ways do you struggle with God's immediate judgment of evil in the Old Testament?

II. The Line Protected – Read Genesis 38:12-26 and answer the following questions.

- A. List all the different reasons why Tamar decided that now was the time to deceive Judah?
- B. In what ways does Tamar show herself to be extremely wise in her actions?
- C. When Judah hears that Tamar is pregnant by immorality (v.24), he responds by demanding that she be burned. In what ways is Judah showing himself to be a complete hypocrite?
- D. Why are the signet, the cord, and the staff so important in this unofficial trial? Why is Judah's declaration that Tamar is more righteous than him so helpful to our understanding of Tamar?

III. The Line Delivered – Read Genesis 38:27-30 and answer the following questions.

- A. What connections do you make between Perez and Zerah and the birth of Jacob and Esau?
- B. How do the genealogies in Ruth 4 and Matthew 1 help you understand the significance of the line that leads to Jesus? What is the significance of the four Gentile women listed in Matthew 1:1-6?
- C. God can certainly use the greatest of human sinfulness to accomplish His great work of redemption, but how does He command us to behave as believers (1 Peter 1:13-16)?
- D. Describe what it looks like for a person to have mission clarity in their life?