

# Caught! | Genesis 38

October 18, 2020

**Context:** Genesis 38 is a brief interruption in the extended story of Joseph that contrasts him with his brother Judah and describes twenty rocky years of Judah's family life.

**Notes:**

**Lessons:**

1. People can do disgusting things, but God can \_\_\_\_\_.
2. People are sinful, but God is \_\_\_\_\_ in fulfilling his purposes.
3. God cares about all people, \_\_\_\_\_!

**God's Word:**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What contrasts do you see between the brothers Joseph and Judah?
2. Can you think of other examples where God transformed a person who acted badly into someone He used for his glory?
3. What is one way that can you apply God's Word from Genesis 38 to your life this week?



## Questions for Parents to use with their children:

\*Parents, the following chapter contains sexual content and is graphic. Depending on the ages of your children, feel free to proceed with caution, making adjustments where you deem necessary.

Today's chapter on the life of Judah is an unusual one that seems to interrupt the story of Joseph. However, consider the story of Judah not as an interruption in the storyline but intentional. Maybe divine interruption. Although we as humans sin, God never does, and is a master at using even the worst things to fulfill His purposes.

As you read all or parts of Chapter 38, where do you find the following:

- **The sinfulness of man?**

*Answer: Judah's life of immorality, hypocrisy, and willingness to deceive Tamar. You also see the sinfulness of man in Judah's sons Er and Onan whom the Lord killed. Finally, you see it in Tamar intentionally deceiving her father in law.*

- **The change of a person when they admit they're wrong and turn from it?**

*Answer: When Judah is confronted by Tamar with his sin, he states, "She is more righteous than I."*

- **God's sovereignty and the ultimate care of people?** Hint: the answer lies in the future.

*Answer: In the midst of all of the brokenness of Genesis 38, the genealogy of Jesus runs through Judah and Tamar. Judah and Tamar were the parents of Perez and Zereh. In his mind, wanting to protect his youngest son, Judah seemed to be driven perhaps by fear which could have caused him to not give his youngest son in marriage to Tamar. Although the situation was difficult, God used the circumstances surrounding Judah and Tamar (a gentile) to bring about the lineage of King David and ultimately King Jesus.*

- **How can we apply this story to our lives?**

*Answer: Revel in the sovereignty of God. He is able to fulfill his purposes no matter how dark things seem to be. We can also revel in the reality that he can use the worst of people to fulfill his purposes and bring honor to his name. Finally, we can revel in the sovereignty of God in that he cares for everyone...even those we might not think that he should.*