

TAMAR TRAPPED

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CONTEXT & CULTURE

Tamar lived during the same time as Joseph, Jacob's son. After Joseph's eleven brothers sold him into Egypt, Joseph's brother Judah also left home - but by his own choice. Later, Judah became a father-in-law to Tamar. She lived in a dominated male culture and was trapped by their mistreatment until she took matters into her own hands.

1. Read Genesis 38:1-11

The custom of having a widow marry her brother-in-law was commanded by God.

"If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her." - Deuteronomy 25:5 This duty included that the estate's inheritance was to be gifted to the born son under the name of the deceased brother Er and not the biological father.

Considering the Levirate law, why did Onan find it important to not provide a son for Tamar?

2. Read Genesis 38:12-14

Was Tamar's deceit advantageous or sinful? Was she rightfully taking back what was hers?

3. Read Genesis 38:15-19

Tamar could have prostituted herself to anyone to conceive a child.

Why go through the disguise and negotiation with Judah?

4. Read Genesis 38:20-26

Name some ways in this section that God was both humbling Judah and redeeming Tamar?

5. Read Genesis 38:27-30

God used mistreatment to bring not one but twin boys into Tamar's life.

What are some unexpected blessings that God has brought into your life despite mistreatment?



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APPLY / PRAY / MEDITATE



APPLICATION CHALLENGE:

Inheritance gifted to the first born son or the rightful heir is a practice found throughout history and cultures. As Christians, we pay more attention to providing a spiritual inheritance for our children and not a material one. It only takes one generation for God to be forgotten. **What are some ways that we can build a solid biblical foundation for our children?** *1 Peter 1:3-4, "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."*

ACTS PRAYER

Adoration <i>Praise God for who he is, what he has done, and what he will do.</i>	Confession <i>Confess sins, especially sins that relate to the reading.</i>	Thanksgiving <i>What are you grateful for? Look for blessings from the bible reading.</i>	Supplication <i>Ask of God. What do we need? What do others need?</i>

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE FOR MEMORY OR MEDITATION:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”
- Isaiah 43:1