

Learn From True Story

"1 At that time, Judah left his brothers and went down to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah. 2 There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her and lay with her; 3 she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er. 4 She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. 5 She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him.

6 Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. 7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the LORD's sight; so the LORD put him to death.

8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Lie with your brother's wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to produce offspring for your brother." 9 But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so whenever he lay with his brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground to keep from producing offspring for his brother. 10 What he did was wicked in the LORD's sight; so he put him to death also.

11 Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Live as a widow in your father's house 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 house.

12 After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him.

13 When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep," 14 she took off her widow's clothes, covered herself with a veil to disguise herself, and then sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that, though Shelah had now grown up, she had not been given to him as his wife.

15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 16 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." "And what will you give me to sleep with you?" she asked. 17 "I'll send you a young goat from my flock," he said. "Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?" she asked. 18 He said, "What pledge should I give you?" "Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand," she answered. So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him. 19 After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow's clothes again.

20 Meanwhile Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get his pledge back from the woman, but he did not find her. 21 He asked the men who lived there, "Where is the shrine prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?" "There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here," they said.

22 So he went back to Judah and said, "I didn't find her. Besides, the men who lived there said, 'There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here.'"

23 Then Judah said, "Let her keep what she has, or we will become a laughingstock. After all, I did send her this young goat, but you didn't find her."

24 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!"

25 As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. "I am pregnant by the man who owns these," she said. And she added, "See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are." 26 Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah." And he did not sleep with her again." (Genesis 38:1-26)

This is one of the true stories about the people of God in the Old Testament of the Bible. It is not a mere story or just a drama. It actually happened with the people who were chosen and were belonging to God. God had called them but yet, they failed to obey God and went their own ways. For no one is immune from sin and all my fall. So let us take the message seriously as we read and ponder the above true story with the following Scriptures:

1. ***"For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)*** We should not pervert justice. We read that Judah had blocked Tamar from taking her right to be married to her brother-in-law after the death of her husband. It was God's law that the brother should produce offspring for the dead brother but Judah did not follow this law and perverted justice. Sometimes or often we do the same, blocking the right of others and we do our own desires and perform our own justice. We think we can do better, but away from God's way, we can do nothing.

God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ and He died on the cross and raised from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life. If God has given His own Son, how much more graciously He will give us all things we need and ask from Him. We ought to trust God, obey Him and follow His ways; we must, ***"do to other as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31)***

2. ***"For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open." (Luke 8: 17)*** Judah was trying to cover up his sin but it was finally exposed. He judged his daughter-in-law very sharply but he forgot what he had done. No one can hide an extramarital relationship; it will be finally exposed and revealed. If you are married you cannot go into another affair; it will be exposed.

My dear and beloved: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Galatians 6:7) After reading this message it is in your hand and you have the choice to follow God's ways and to do His will. Be earnest to pray and repent from sin. ***My Prayer:*** *"Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and raised from the death on the third day to give me life eternal. O Lord, guide me in Your ways I pray. Help me to do our will and to give to everyone his rights. Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness and help me to live a life pleasant to You. Thank you, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus' Name, Amen."*