

do you see confession? How about repentance (a change in behavior by going in a different direction)?

Sermon Notes

"Each In His Place – Part 2"

Numbers 1:47 – 2:34

March 6, 2022

7. Later in the narrative, during a famine, after the grain purchased during their first trip to Egypt runs out, they need to return to buy more. But the man in charge of selling the grain in Egypt (Joseph, unbeknownst to his brothers), has demanded that they bring their youngest brother Benjamin as evidence that they're telling the truth. Look at the exchange between Judah and Israel (Gen. 43:3-10). How would you characterize Judah here?

8. Finally, when a missing silver cup is discovered in Benjamin's sack of grain, the consequence is that he shall be held as a slave, but the rest of the brothers are free to go. Given this opportunity to be rid of yet another favored son of their father, read Judah's response (Gen 44:18-34). What has changed in Judah's character from the summary in question 5?

9. In what ways can you relate to Judah's story? Are there parallels of repentance and life change? How has God's grace been greater than your own sin?

Let's Pray

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 3-6-2022

Adapted from Leviticus & Numbers: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2014, pp. 77-79.

Getting Started:

1. What is your favorite story of redemption (from Scripture, from movies, or from real life)?

Digging Deeper:

I think understanding the arc of Judah's life story is crucial to understanding why his family was later chosen to lead the nation (Gen. 49:8,10). Let's take our study time this week to trace the development of Judah's character over the years.

2. Read Genesis 37:18-28. How does this passage portray Joseph's brothers in general (consider as well their later recollection of this scene in Gen. 42:21)? What does Judah's part reveal about him at that time (37:26-27)?

In Genesis 38 Judah moves out of the house on his own. He marries a Canaanite girl and starts his own family. His boys grow up and Judah secures a wife named Tamar for his oldest son. Later Judah fails to keep his vow to Tamar as her father-in-law. When his first two sons were put to death due to their own wickedness, Tamar is left alone. No children, no husband, no financial support. There is no governmental safety net of welfare in this society. And so being a widow

without a son puts her in a particularly vulnerable spot. With no wage-earner in the house, she will soon be destitute. And so the practice was to for the family of the deceased man to take responsibility and provide for her.

Instead of taking that responsibility and providing for her by marrying her to his third son (which would have been the custom of the day), Judah sends her home empty handed to her own parents (Gen. 38:11). He insists he'll provide for her later, once his son is full-grown. But it becomes obvious once his son reaches and passes maturity that Judah had no intentions of marrying her to this last living son.

3. Given this background, what does Genesis 38:11 further reveal to you about Judah's character?
4. Later, Judah unwittingly takes Tamar for a prostitute and treats her like one. When their encounter results in her pregnancy, Judah is unaware that he is the father. Take note of his actions, his motives, and his words. What does this passage reveal to you about Judah's character (38:14-24)?
5. So, given these three scenes, how would you characterize Judah at this point in his life?
6. Now, read the story that marks a turning point in Judah's life (Gen. 38:25-26). When publicly confronted with his sin, what does Judah do? Deny it? Blame shift? Where