

Tamar: Space for the Shamed

December 1st, 2024 | Pastor Mike Foster |
Matthew 1:3 and Genesis 38 | Space at the Table

Notes on Genesis 38:

God sets His table with..

- ◆ Mercy for new beginnings

- ◆ Honor for the shamed

- ◆ Redemption for the world

Take your seat at God's table today. Put your name on a chair.

You can receive forgiveness of sin and be born again into God's family forever.

You can pray something like these words below to express your heart's decision to place your faith in Christ for salvation:

Dear Lord Jesus,
I admit my sin and know I deserve judgment (Romans 3:23, 6:23). I believe you died for my sin, taking my place (Romans 5:8). I believe you rose again to conquer death. I call on you, Jesus, to save my soul (Romans 10:13). I take my seat at your table. Thank you for giving me eternal life, forgiveness, and a place in your family forever.

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

Read Genesis 38, Matthew 1:1-3, Ruth 4:12, Revelation 5:5, Isaiah 43:1-2, 1 John 1:9, Genesis 50:20
Listen to "O Come All Ye Unfaithful" – bit.ly/OComeAllYe
Listen to "The Table" – bit.ly/TheTable1
Listen to "The Table" (another one) – bit.ly/TheTable4
Read "Prostitutes, Mistresses, and the Messiah" – bit.ly/ProstitutesMistresses
Read some lessons from Tamar – bit.ly/JudahandTamar
Read "Unlikely Heroes: The Women of Matthew 1" – bit.ly/UnlikelyHeroesMatt1
Read *A Lineage of Grace* by Francine Rivers – a wonderful historical fiction of the five women of our series
Read *Shame Interrupted* by Ed Welch
Resources for those experiencing domestic abuse: bit.ly/DomesticAbuseLeslie and bit.ly/DarbyStrickland
Resource for those using control and violence in homes: *The Heart of Domestic Abuse* by Chris Moles

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you the most from the message?
2. In your own words, summarize the story of Tamar in Genesis 38. What surprises you, confuses you, angers you, encourages you, or speaks to you in this story?
3. Share about a time when you longed to be accepted but ended up being rejected or left out. How did you feel? How might Jesus be able to relate to that?
4. Read Matthew 1:1-3. What is the significance of the mention of Tamar's name in the genealogy of Jesus?
5. Based on Tamar's story, other Scriptures, or your own experience, how might you encourage someone who is suffering unjustly?
6. Read Psalm 23. How do you see the Good Shepherd in Tamar's story? Focus on verse 6. How do you see the Lord's mercy pursuing Tamar and even Judah?
7. Share about a time when the Lord's mercy pursued you. How did you respond?
8. Read Romans 8:37-39. What does God promise his people? Why does this matter?
9. Have you "taken your seat at God's table" by placing your faith in Christ for salvation? If so, what barriers did you need to overcome in order to do so? If not, what is keeping you from doing so today?
10. Read Romans 15:7. Spend some time praying for people all around us to know real acceptance in Christ, and for us to be ready to accept one another in Christ.

