



Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar...

Matthew 1:3

A Savior from a line of secret sinners to save sinners from their secrets

Genesis 38 is not one of the easiest chapters of the Bible to digest. It reads like a modern day soap opera. God strikes down a son of Judah because of how he approached his marriage to Judah's daughter-in-law, Tamar. And then he strikes down another son of Judah for doing the exact same thing when he married her. The story gets worse when trickery takes over, and Tamar becomes pregnant with her father-in-law's child.

Ugly sin horribly rears its ugly head, with God's people living as anything but children of light in this world of darkness. And yet, even in this God achieves his good purpose and keeps the line of the Savior moving closer and closer to Bethlehem.

Do you have secret sins that no one else knows? Have you failed your God in a way that you're ashamed to even contemplate, let alone discuss with others? We all join together with the apostle Paul who lamented, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing," (Romans 7:15,19) even begging the question, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" (vs. 24). Sin follows us every moment of every day. We fail God—both openly and in ways which no one else knows about.

And yet, Jesus loves us—despite what we've done or how we've failed him. Paul answered his own question, "Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" by proclaiming, "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 7:24-25).

Jesus loves you, dear young friend! No matter what you've done. No matter how secret your sins are. He died for you. He washed you clean. You are his.

Prayer: Almighty Lord God, guilt is something that Satan uses so often in life to make me feel isolated and alone. Daily remind me through the power of your Holy Word that your Son Jesus has washed me clean in his blood shed on the cross, called me his own, and taken away all guilt. While I know that I am still sinful, I also cherish that in you I have forgiveness and salvation. Amen.