



HOPE FOR THE WRONGED & WRONG

Matthew 1:1-17 & Genesis 38

Advent is upon us. Advent is a season of expectancy. It's a swelling anticipation of the coming of our Lord Jesus. The theme of the First Sunday of Advent is *Hope and Expectancy*.

ADVENT REFLECTION

Advent begins with the expectant hope of the prophets of old. An eager longing for the One who would break into the darkness with His life-giving light. An anticipation of a King like no other. Whose kingdom is not temporal but eternal. Whose attributes are divine: Wonderful Counsellor (Isa. 28:29); Mighty God (Deut. 10:17); Everlasting Father (Ps. 103:13); Prince of Peace (Eph. 2:14). We begin this season by slowing down and waiting with expectancy for Jesus, our hope.

1. Share what has distracted you from fixing your gaze on Jesus at Christmas time in the past.
2. What have you put your hope in other than Jesus?
3. The fact that Jesus came to save us should produce a sense of wonder! What would renew that in you this Advent season?

SERMON SUMMARY

The genealogy of Jesus includes a gospel treasure. That treasure is *5 Women*. Even though it is a patrilineal genealogy (a record of fathers and sons), most of them were racial and cultural outsiders, there they are. The story of Tamar and Judah (Genesis 38; Matthew 1:3) is one of redemption for those who have experienced injustice as well as those who have been unjust.

What big takeaway, Truth from the Word stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?



I: THERE IS HOPE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED INJUSTICE

1. What is encouraging about the inclusion of Tamar in the genealogy of Jesus?
2. Read Isaiah 1:14-17 and James 1:27. What does it look like as followers of Jesus to care about the things that He cares about in regards to widows and orphans and those most vulnerable in our community?
3. Read Psalm 56:8; Acts 9:4 and Revelation 21:4 and discuss how these passages minister to you in your hurts and history.

II: THERE IS HOPE FOR THOSE WHO BLAME OTHERS FOR THEIR OWN SIN

1. Read Proverbs 19:3. Talk about where blaming others for sin finds its roots and how Judah came to see that he had not owned his sin.
2. A few things we blame others for were listed in the sermon: *anger, impatience, lust, anxiety, spiritual apathy, a critical spirit, bitterness, gossip, self-pity, and selfishness*. How have you blamed others for your sins in these or any other ways not listed?
3. What about Genesis 38 and Judah's inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus can fill those who have wronged others and sinned before God with hope?

III: THERE IS HOPE IN THE GOSPEL FOR VICTIMS & VICTIMIZERS

1. Jesus came to give hope and redemption to those who have been victimized. How have you experienced that?
2. Jesus also came to give hope and redemption to the victimizer and blamer of other through repentance and grace. How have you experienced that?

CONCLUSION

The story of Tamar is a scandalous story that results in scandalous grace that was only made possible by the coming of Jesus Christ. Take some time together to *examine* your hearts, repent of sin, share past hurts, and *examine* the wonder of the gospel afresh.

SHARE & PRAY

- Pray in response to the things you discussed in this study.
- Spend time thanking God for the incarnation, that Jesus came and is coming again.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

