



## PART 2: WHY HIM? Pastor Charles Kiefer

**WARM UP QUESTION:** Have you ever had a “why him?” moment? (Maybe a coach, boss or a teacher chose someone, puzzling you because their choice did not seem to make sense.)

**READ:** *Genesis 38, 49:8-12 (ESV)*

**FOCUS:** In this passage, we see that God chose Judah to be the one through whom the Messiah would come because of His sovereign grace, not Judah’s perfection.

### OBSERVE:

- **Judah tried to run from his pain and sin, but he only made them worse. (38:1-11)**
  - After hatching the plan to sell his brother Joseph into slavery, Judah left his family and married a Canaanite woman. Verses 1-6
  - Two of his sons were so evil that God killed them. Furthermore, Judah chose to not care for his daughter-in-law Tamar by abandoning the obligation to have his third son marry her. Verses 7-11
- **Living for greed and pleasure makes things worse. (38:9-10, 12-25)**
  - Onan chose to exploit Tamar by merely satisfying his sexual desires rather than caring for her. Verses 9-10
  - Judah sleeps with a woman whom he thinks to be a prostitute (Tamar in disguise), giving up his symbols of authority and individual identity (seal and staff) for “five minutes” of pleasure. Verses 12-23
  - He hypocritically condemns Tamar for her pregnancy. Verses 24-25
- **Judah repented by acknowledging his wrongdoing and turning away from it. (38:26-30)**

- When Tamar confronted Judah, he repented, acknowledging that she was more righteous than he was because he kept his third son from her.
- This was the turning point in his life.
- **Despite Judah’s sin in contrast to Joseph’s moral uprightness, God, out of His sovereign grace, chose Judah to be the one through whom the Messiah would come for His glory and our good. (49:8-12, ref. Matt 1:1-2)**
  - This story is sandwiched in between Joseph’s story. Joseph did everything right (resisting sexual temptation in Chapter 39) while Judah did everything wrong.
  - Yet, King David and ultimately Jesus Christ, Who would be called the Lion of Judah, are descendents of one of the children conceived by Judah’s sexual immorality.
  - Through Jesus, all sin, no matter how egregious, can be forgiven.

### REFLECT:

- Like Judah, have you ever run away from your problems, making bad decisions in order to cope with guilt or failure?
- Is there anything you should repent of, rather than cope with, that will set you on a path toward freedom?

### TAKE ACTION:

- Recognize the ways in which you are like Judah.
- Repent from specific sins, embracing the sovereign grace of God.

**PRAY:** *Father, we repent of all the ways in which we have sinned and have attempted to cope with our sin, and we ask that, by Your Spirit, You would give us humble hearts to continually repent from sin. Thank You that You have, by Your sovereign grace, chosen to love, bless and save us through Jesus Christ! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

