

# Where Is God When We Hurt?

## Session 4 ~ When Rejection Riddles Our Souls

### *Genesis 37—49*

Jacob and Leah's fourth son, Judah, was born into a dysfunctional family characterized by favoritism and deception. Leah's experience of being the less-loved wife affected her sons and their relationships with their brothers and father. Jacob's preference for his second wife, Rachel, carried over to her children. By rising above the rejection he felt, Judah changed his and his descendants' lives. Through the above chapters, we can track his transformation.

Judah and his brothers hated Joseph because \_\_\_\_\_.

**The brothers plotted to kill Joseph, but Judah convinced them to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Unwilling to admit their scheme to their father, the brothers convinced Jacob that Joseph was dead. How did his reaction differ from their expectations?

***“Judah left his brothers and went down...” (Genesis 38:1) communicates his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ descent.***

Judah married and fathered three sons. He chose Tamar as a wife for his firstborn, but the son's wickedness led to his death shortly after marrying. When the second-born refused to fulfill his responsibility to provide an heir for his brother (levirate marriage), he also died.

**Judah disgraced and rejected Tamar by \_\_\_\_\_.**

When Tamar realized Judah would not honor his responsibility to marry her to his third son, she disguised herself and waited for him. Assuming she was a prostitute, he propositioned her.

In payment, she demanded Judah's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Upon discovering Tamar’s pregnancy, Judah demanded she be \_\_\_\_\_.

Instead of humiliating Judah, Tamar gave him the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_.

**“She is righteous, not I” (Genesis 38:26) is the first time in the Torah someone acknowledged his guilt. Judah’s confession marked a turning point in his life.**

Like Tamar, we can respond to \_\_\_\_\_ with aggressive \_\_\_\_\_,

turning the pain of \_\_\_\_\_ into a pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_.

Aggressive grace will change our:

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After returning home, Judah repeatedly lived out the redirection of his life:

- In *Genesis 43:8*, a different \_\_\_\_\_ motivated Judah than in the past.
- In *Genesis 43:9*, Judah expressed a new \_\_\_\_\_ toward his brother and father.
- In *Genesis 43:33-34*, Judah’s \_\_\_\_\_ revealed a changed heart.

**Before his death, Jacob recognized Judah as the long-term leader of the family from whom both the monarchy and Messiah would come. (Genesis 48:8-12)**

### Discussion Questions

1. Why did Judah refer to Tamar as righteous?
2. How did Tamar’s response to Judah’s rejection transform him?
3. In what ways has God used the painful episodes of your past to bring you to him?
4. Explain your understanding of aggressive grace. Where can you apply it in your life?