

The Story Of Grace

(2) Surprised By Grace

GRACE is the vehicle **GOD** uses on occasion to ensure that we **GET PRECISELY** what **WE DON'T DESERVE!**

GENESIS 38:1-26... (ESV)

It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. 2 There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her, 3 and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name **Er**. 4 She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name **Onan**. 5 Yet again she bore a son, and she called his name **Shelah**. Judah was in Chezib when she bore him. 6 And Judah took a wife for **Er** his firstborn, and her name was **Tamar**. 7 But **Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death.** 8 Then **Judah** said to **Onan**, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother." 9 But **Onan** knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother. 10 **And what he did was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also.** 11 Then **Judah** said to **Tamar** his daughter-in-law, "**Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up**" - for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. **So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.** 12 In the course of time the wife of **Judah**, Shua's daughter, died. When **Judah** was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 And when **Tamar** was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," 14 **she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage.** 15 When **Judah** saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 16 He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" 17 He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it - " 18 He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. 19 Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood. 20 When **Judah** sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her. 21 And he asked the men of the place, "Where is the cult prostitute who was at Enaim at the roadside?" And they said, "No cult prostitute has been here." 22 So he returned to **Judah** and said, "I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, 'No cult prostitute has been here.'" 23 And **Judah** replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her." 24 About three months later **Judah** was told, "**Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality.**" And **Judah** said, "**Bring her out, and let her be burned.**" 25 As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "**By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant.**" And she said, "**Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.**" 26 Then **Judah** identified them and said, "**She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.**"

Genesis 38:26...

"She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah."

Genesis 43:8-9... (ESV)

"Send the boy along with me and we will go at once – so that we and you and our children may live and not die! I myself will guarantee his safety – you can hold ME personally responsible for him! If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you – I will bear the blame before you all my life!"

Genesis 44:32-34... (ESV)

For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.' 33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. 34 For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."

*This would be a **DAY** that **JUDAH** would **NEVER FORGET...**
THIS WAS A DAY OF GRACE!*

Genesis 45:5...

*And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here,
for God sent me before you to preserve life.*

*For **YEARS...** these **BROTHERS** had been
CONSUMED WITH GUILT over what they had done!*

*And for **YEARS...** **JOSEPH** was **CONSUMED** with something else entirely... **GRACE!!***

***JUDAH** never really **GOT** what **HE DESERVED!**
As is **ALWAYS** the **CASE WITH GRACE** – he **GOT** what **HE DESERVED LEAST!***

Genesis 49:8-10... (The Message)

(8) You, Judah, your brothers will praise you:

Your fingers on your enemies' throat, while your brothers honor you...

*(10) The scepter shall not leave Judah; he'll keep a firm grip on the command staff -
until the ultimate ruler comes and the nations obey him.*