

## Slippery Slope

### I. Slide1 Announce:

A. JM9

B. **Read:** Proclamation on *National Sanctity of Human Life Day* 2020

### II. Slide2 Intro: Slippery Slope

A. *The Bible does not shun telling the whole, sad truth about **human nature**. Human nature, as a result of the fall, is **raw**.* John Phillips

1. Like a 2 lane highway, human plans & attentions often run one way, & God's run another.

B. This is about the *frailty* of human nature & the *far-reaching effects* of **sin**.

### III. Slide3a JUDAH'S WICKED SONS (1-11)

A. Marrying a Canaanite woman was disobedience. (Gen.24:3)

B. (2) **Adullamite** - Adullam becomes famous for **a cave** where David catches Saul in later.

C. No name wife.

D. (6) **Tamar** - palm tree.

E. **Slide3b** (7) Play on words with **Er** & **wicked** - 2 letters are just flipped. עֵר רַע

1. **The Lord put him to death** - 1st time God kills someone for wickedness...**but** surely not the last. (eg. Ananias & Sapphira)

2. We don't know **what** he did.

F. **Slide3c** (8) **Levirate Marriage** - Deut.25:5-10 These laws dictate that the brother of a dead husband must marry the widowed wife (his sister-in-law) **and** produce an heir in order to keep the lineage of the deceased brother alive.

1. The purpose of the obligation is to ensure that widows were cared for and did not marry outside the clan.

2. In a patriarchal culture, a widow needed sons to provide for her material needs and keep the property of her deceased husband within the family.

3. Sons also ensured that the name of the deceased husband would not be forgotten.<sup>1</sup>

G. Slide3d (9,10) Onan (the barbarian) - *this is calculated insult*. He sinned greatly against **God**, against *his family*, against *his dead brother*, against *his brother's widow* & against *his own body*.

H. Whenever - not just once...this was his *persistent practice*. [accidental vs. habitual *sin*]

1. Gal.5:21 Paul says, *the works of the flesh are* (then after a list of flesh sins)... *and those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God*.

I. Offspring would not be his - this comment reveals his motives, *selfishness*.

J. (11) Two of his sons were slain by God, and then his wife dies in vs.12. *What Tragedy*. He's not going to let that happen to his last son.

1. Judah had clearly decided that Tamar was full of **bad-omens** (bad juju), and had no intention of hazarding his last remaining son - or of facing Tamar's wrath by saying so.

2. Slide3e My Proverb this morn was Prov.22:19 *I am teaching you today - yes, you - so you will trust in the Lord*. Did Judah not trust God that killing his wicked son was just? What's He teaching you today to trust Him in?

#### IV. Slide4a JUDAH'S WICKED SINS (12-23)

A. Slide4b Tamar's purpose was good, but her plan was wicked.

1. But there was no *Taming Tamar*. Her spirit seemed to be as determined as **an Esther, a Jael** (tent spike to Sisera's head), or **a Rizpah** ().

B. (12) *Sheepshearing* - a time of feasting & celebration. But this is *sheepshearing gone wild*

C. Slide5 It was the old British war hero *Admiral Lord Nelson* who declared, that *every man became a bachelor once he went beyond Gibraltar*.

1. Gibraltar was & Gibraltar represented, anything beyond the civilized world. *Beyond Gibraltar laid the frontier*.

<sup>1</sup> Faithlife Study Bible (Ge 38:8). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

2. When a ship sailed through Gibraltar heading south down the African coast the men were leaving the known world & heading into the unknown.
3. Beyond civilization w/all its *rules, religion, & morality* lay *uninhibited freedom*. *And here*, every man was a *bachelor*. Every man *free from the watchful eye of society* could now behave however he pleased.
4. Beyond Gibraltar there was **no law**. It was Beyond the watching eyes of *friends & family, grandparents, neighbors, pastors*. Every man could be who he wanted to be.
5. Without law & without oversight there was great *freedom*...*And great captivity*
6. In all the *freedom* to sin, he became *bound* to sin. Beyond Gibraltar you left behind *accountability* & close on its heels *morality*.

- D. *Slide6a* (14) *widow's garments* - Tamar's garments were cultural indicators of her status.
- E. (17) *I will send you a young goat* - Judah has nothing to pay the *presumed prostitute*, which confirms that he has *acted impulsively*.
- F. (18) Leaving the *signet* and *staff* (carved distinctly for its owner) was like leaving *fingerprints*, *because* each man's was *distinctive*. (staff carved distinctly for its owner)
1. *Signet*/signature (representing his *person*). *Cord* (representing his *possessions*). *Staff* (representing his *position*).
- G. (20) *Hirah* - seems to be Judah's evil genius. He shows up *3 times* in this chapter.
1. First as Judah's **acquaintance**, *then* as Judah's **associate**, *and* ends up becoming Judas's **accomplice**.
  2. It all started with this *unsaved* friend...*then one thing leads to another*.
- H. *Slide6b* (21) *Cult Prostitute* - or temple prostitute. (cult is from Lt. *cultus*/worship)
1. In December when I was in **Nepal**, I met a young couple *pastor Rajendra & his wife Esther* (in the *Baidadi District*).
    - a) They explained there are 2 new cast groups: *Negi & Nayke*, who are all children from temple prostitutes. *Meaning that there are so many they had to make them a their own group/caste*. [Deuki = Deu/gods, Ki/daughter]

## V. Slide7a JUDAH'S WICKED HYPOCRISY (24-30)

- A. (24) Judah was *harsh & hasty* to condemn Tamar for sinning, **but what about *his own sins* towards Tamar?** [**but** Judah's **sin** had *found him out*]
1. We need not suspect conscious hypocrisy in Judah's outburst, **so much as the deeper dishonesty** of having 1 standard for **men** and another for **women**.
  2. Hosea 4:14 *I will not punish your **daughters** when they play the whore, nor your **brides** when they commit adultery; for **the men themselves** go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with **cult prostitutes**, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.* (I don't need to punish them, they will be their own worse punishment)
    - a) Slide7b The **Main point** in this ch. is *unfaithfulness to God brings destruction to a society.*
- B. **She is more righteous than I** - Judah knows he is **the guilty party** and **confesses**...sparing Tamar's life.
- C. (27-30) **Perez** - God's breakthrough. He appears in the lineage of King David & Jesus.
- D. **Scarlet thread** - later in scripture *the scarlet thread* became **a symbol of salvation**.
1. Remember it was **a scarlet thread Rahab** was to bind in her window, on the wall of Jericho, **so that** she and her house might escape the vengeance of God
- E. Slide8 **Why is this sordid chapter in the Bible?**
1. To show us the **contrast** between Judah's sin and Joseph's victory (39).
  2. To remind us of the importance of **purity**.
  3. And the main reason is to add **another link** in the redeemer's family tree (Mt.1:3)
  4. **How gracious** God is to mention Tamar, *who had prostituted herself*, in the great genealogy of our Savior.
    - a) Actually, such was **the grace of God** to **Tamar**, yes, and to **Judah** too.
    - b) Oh, and the **grace** of God, in that God has judicially taken away 2 of Judah sons, **now** in grace He gave him 2 in return. (though he wanting nothing to do with Tamar or her sons, at all)