Sermon Questions

Sermon: Family Trees Don’t Lie (The Hopeful Story of Judah)

Text Genesis 38 (and excerpts from rest of Joseph narrative)

1. In what ways does Tamar’s story intersect with modern women who have suffered as a result of powerful men who don’t love them? Where’s the hope for women like Tamar?
2. Is Tamar’s scheme to seduce Judah and bear a child bad or good? Is it possible to desire something good, sin in order to make it happen, and ultimately have God bless it and use it? (Not sure how to ask these questions, but I’m sure you’ll know what I’m getting at. (-;)
3. Try to explain how it’s possible for someone as sinful and broken as Judah to respond to someone’s sin (like Tamar’s) with such self-righteousness and judgment? “Burn her at once!” Do we ever see this kind of response in ourselves? What might that be telling us about our own hearts?
4. What is it about Judah’s response to Tamar’s “the man who got me pregnant is the man who owns these” that indicates repentance and possible transformation?
5. How is Judah’s transformation evidenced in the rest of the story?
6. How does Jacob’s Last Will and Testament to Judah (49:8-12) describe Jesus?
7. How does this story confirm that we are saved and sanctified by grace?