

## 2 JACKED UP TALES OF 2 JACKED UP PEOPLE

December 6 & 9

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*Bible Verses Read Today: Genesis 37: 23-27; Matthew 1:1-3*

The Christmas we are talking about the Unexpected Christmas.

What we have come to expect...

There are 3 kinds of people I want to talk with today:

- Person with Past Failure
- Person with Present Shortcomings
- Person with Personal Pride

One Sentence: "God can use ANYONE, ANYHOW, ANYTIME, in ANY WAY to accomplish ANY PURPOSE He chooses."

### Tale #1: Jacked-Up Judah

*Genesis 37:23-26*

*So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe – the richly ornamented robe he was wearing – and they took him and threw him into the cistern (large well). Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spiced, balm, myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.*

*Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?" Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.*

7 Clues Into Judah's Character

- Judah was abusive to his brother
- Judah considers murdering his brother
- Judah decides to sell his brother
- Judah profits from selling his brother
- Judah lies to his father
- Judah lies to his mother
- Judah chooses to keep a secret

### Tale #2: Tore-Up Tamar

Synopsis of One of the Bible's Creepiest Stories in 20 Steps (Genesis 38)

### Matthew 1:1-3: The Genealogy of Jesus

*This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar...*

### 3 key points on genealogy:

- Genealogy was of great importance.
- Why? A person's worth was found in their history.
- Often, ancient historians only recorded the good.

### 3 KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### In God's Economy, Your Past Is Not An Indication of Your Future

- With God's help – and some therapy – your future can be far greater than your past

#### How You See Others Is Rarely How God Sees Others

- Never give up on other
- See with compassion (but for the grace of God, there go I)

#### How You See Yourself Is Rarely How God Sees You

- Never give up on yourself

“God can use ANYONE, ANYHOW, ANYTIME, in ANY WAY to accomplish ANY PURPOSE He chooses.”

### NEXT STEPS

Christmas prayer, “Help me to daily see myself and those around through your eyes.”

Seeing myself through God's eyes rids me of the need for perfection;  
Seeing others through God's eyes rids me of the destructiveness of pride.