



CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF...

TAMAR

David McQueen // December 4, 2011

MESSAGE RECAP

The **good news of great joy** about Christmas is that Jesus came to redeem us from our past and use our lives for greatness; to heal the wounds that come from living in a fallen world and to include us in His wonderful family. Christmas, just like the story of Tamar, tells us that God sent Jesus to bring hope into a fallen world, bind up the brokenhearted, and to preach the good news to the poor. Jesus shows us by His mercy, grace, and love that there is no situation or circumstance that is too difficult for Him.

GETTING STARTED

1. Think back to a Christmas past, was there ever a gift that you longed to have and you anticipated its arrival only to be disappointed when it was not under the tree? How do you remember feeling?

GOING DEEPER

1. After hearing the account of Tamar and Judah, what was one of the most difficult aspects for you to come to terms with and why?
2. Can you think of any situations that would ever justify wrong acts to achieve something right?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. When has God brought something good out of a bad situation for you? Where would you like to see some good come out of a bad situation today?
2. In your own life have you ever withheld doing the right thing due to fear or selfish needs?
3. Pastor David made the point that we don't always get what we deserve in life. Has there been a situation in your life where you didn't get what you deserved? If so, have you come to a place where God's hope through Jesus has prevailed and you believe that He understands your pain?

MINISTRY TIME

Now is the time to declare our gratitude and thankfulness for our adoption into the family of Christ. Praise Him for His redemptive healing love that came down to earth to meet us in our brokenness. **Take this time to share personal testimonies and remember how much we have been forgiven when we didn't deserve it.** Sing songs of thankfulness, read Psalms of praise, declare to the heavens that Christ is LORD!

TAKING ACTION

The challenge this week will be to show the love of Christ to someone that doesn't deserve it or expect it. Let someone go in front of you in the checkout stand, buy a stranger a cup of coffee, take a plate of goodies over to a neighbor and sit and talk for a few minutes, ask your wait staff person if they have a prayer request that you can pray about, or put out a thank you card for the postal worker, and don't forget to bless them with a great Christmas. Luke 12:48 ESV *"But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more."* We are a people that know the truth of Jesus and He is calling us to tell others of His great love.

JUST FOR LEADERS

VISION CASTING:

Encourage your Life Group this holiday season to **think transformation** not just inwardly in your group but also outwardly to a person or family in need. How can your group be an instrument of transformation by serving and blessing the life of someone outside your group? Would someone in your Life Group be willing to organize and facilitate a combined project of blessing?

CRITICAL DATES & INFORMATION:

NO DNA Infusion during the month of December

Saturday, December 10 - Christmas sack stuffing for local prison inmates (for *Christmas Unleashed*)

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