



December 9, 2012

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This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Matthew 1:1-2 (NIV2011)

Brothers

- _____
- _____

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ 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.” His brothers agreed. Genesis 37:26-27 (NIV2011)

Living with Secrets

- Chased by _____
- Ruled by Self _____

²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.” Judah said, “Bring her out and have her burned to death!” ²⁵ As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. “I am pregnant by the man who owns these,” she said. And she added, “See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are.” Genesis 38:24-25 (NIV2011)

Judah’s Transformation

²⁶ Judah recognized them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I

wouldn’t give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not sleep with her again. Genesis 38:26 (NIV2011)

⁸ Then Judah said to Israel his father, “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. ⁹ 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 43:8-9 (NIV2011)

³³ “Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. ³⁴ How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.” Genesis 44:33-34 (NIV2011)

Recipients of Grace and Mercy

- Not what we _____

¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:14-15a (NIV2011)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV2011)

- The cost is covered by the _____

The point of Christmas is that Jesus came to extend to all grace and mercy.

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Admit that I am a sinner and that I want to receive God’s forgiveness, trusting in what Jesus did for me.
- Give God my secrets and past and receive His peace and a future.
- Give praise and thanks to God who has been gracious and merciful to me.
- Meditate on and/or memorize 1 Timothy 1:15