

SERMON NOTES:



October 11, 2026

The Bible in Stereo
GENESIS 38 (JOSEPH PART 4)

Pastor Mick Spann

1. Genesis 38 belongs in the story

- Genesis 38 is not a random interruption.
- Judah's story is deeply connected to Joseph's.
- God uses the events of Judah's life to expose and transform his character.

2. Judah begins with self-interest

- Judah sees Joseph as a problem to be removed.
- He deceives his father and sells Joseph for his own benefit.
- Like all of us, Judah inherits a broken world and carries his own brokenness into it.

3. God uses brokenness to expose the heart

- Judah becomes the deceived deceiver.
- He is forced to recognise his own guilt.
- True repentance begins when we stop trying to remove the problems around us and recognise that we are part of the problem.
- Confession opens the way for forgiveness, cleansing and new creation.

4. God transforms Judah from the inside out

Judah moves:

- From self-interest → responsibility
- From protecting himself → protecting others
- From taking → giving
- From removing a brother → offering himself for a brother

"I myself will guarantee his safety." (Gen 43:9)

And later:

"Let your servant remain here ... in place of the boy." (Gen 44:33)

5. Spiritual maturity means becoming like Christ

- Following Jesus is not simply about having our sins forgiven.
- God is making us new.
- The goal is that our lives increasingly reflect the heart of our Creator.
- Spiritual maturity is less about how old we are and more about our willingness to grow in Christlikeness.

"As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart." – Proverbs 27:19

God can take our brokenness, expose our hearts, transform our character, and make our lives a source of blessing to others.

He will help us get our lives together, but not for our own sake!

Rather, so that we might give our lives away, for the sake of others, as an act of love for Christ, and all to the glory of God.

“Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”

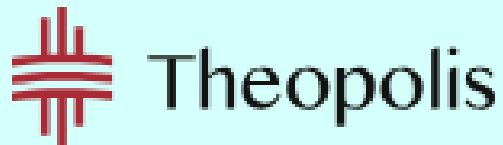
— Matthew 16:25

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Resources that Mick found helpful in the development of this message:



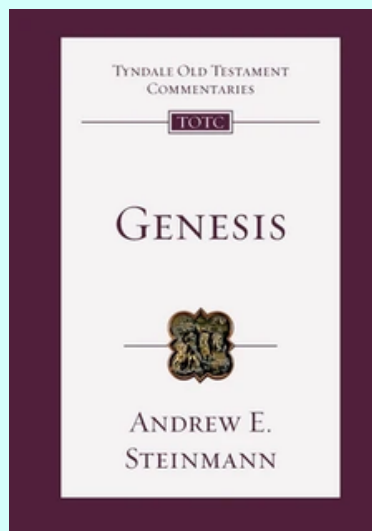
[Interludes and Irony in the Ancestral Narrative](#)
[J.A. Kruschwitz](#)



[Genesis 38 from Multiple Angles](#)
[James Bejon](#)



[Joseph Genesis 37:2-50:26](#)
[Dr. Tim Mackie](#)



[Genesis \(Tyndale Old Testament Commentary Series\)](#)
[Andrew E. Steinmann](#)

