

# Judah and Tamar

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!" 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."

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 38:24-26



Caught red handed. Remember the cookie jar experience of getting 'caught in the act' and the emotions that followed:

- Embarrassment - at being caught
- Denial - not effective while holding the cookie
- Blame - brother, sister, dog, mass media...
- Anger - at being dumb enough to get caught
- Confession - last resort, used when parents don't buy denial
- Shame - a direct result of the ensuing lecture
- Humiliation - result of punishment

Overall, not a pleasant experience. Jacob got caught, but he did something unique. He owned up to his wrong doing. How refreshing. Let's admit it, we all make mistakes. Covering them up doesn't make them go away. Oh, and by the way, as you are seeking forgiveness from God, don't forget to give it to others.

