

Judah

Judah, the fourth son of Jacob by his wife Leah, [**Genesis 29:35**].

Judah took a leading role among his brothers as shown in the story of Joseph.

Genesis 37:26-27 [New King James] *“So Judah said to his brothers, ‘What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.’ And his brothers listened.”*

The brothers were worried about bearing the guilt of Joseph’s death. Judah suggested an option that was **not** right but would leave them guiltless of murder.

People who are leaders stand out but they do **not** necessarily look or act as leaders until the need for action is apparent.

Among a leader’s skills are outspokenness, decisiveness, action and control. These skills can be used for great good but also for great evil.

Jacob was a natural leader, and the events in his life provided many opportunities to exercise these skills.

Unfortunately, Judah’s decisions were often shaped more by the pressures of the moment than by a conscious desire to co-operate with the Creator God’s plan.

However, when he did recognise his mistake, Judah was willing to admit them. Judah’s experience with Tamar is an example of this, [**Genesis 38:11-26**]. Also the final confrontation with Joseph, [**Genesis 44:18-34**].

This willingness to bear the blame when confronted was one of the qualities passed on to his descendent King David.

Whether or not we have Judah’s natural leadership qualities, we all share with him a tendency to be blind to our own sins.

Too often, however, we do not share his willingness to admit our mistakes.

From Judah’s life we can learn that it is **not** wise to wait until our errors force us to admit a wrongdoing. It is far better to admit our mistakes openly, shoulder the blame and to seek for forgiveness.