

**Tamar, Bathsheba and Tamar: Encountering three women with messed up lives by Julie Jones (2008), Published by Day One.**

This book uses the histories of three women in the Bible, all of whom had suffered some form of inappropriate sexual experience. Tamar, recounted in Genesis, was badly treated by Judah. Bathsheba was exploited by David ('...can the wife of an ordinary soldier refuse the demands of the king? No-David uses his position to take what he wants' p. 41) and Tamar was raped by Amnon. As each story is retold key lessons from the pain of these women are identified. Throughout Jones reflects upon wider implications of these stories. For example, in recounting how Tamar was treated like a 'brood mare' by Judah, only recognised for her value in producing a son, Onan's constant attempt to prevent conception and God's anger at that, Jones reminds the reader of how God sees everything. 'While it is good to see the wrong that we might feel tempted to get away with, it is even more encouraging to see that God sees the wrong done to us' (p.18).

This book is very user friendly. It is only seventy-two pages long and divided clearly in thirteen small parts. Useful areas for further study and questions to 'think about and discuss' are identified. It is ideal for the Christian victim of abuse as it makes clear the hurt experienced by these women and yet the grace of God in using their experiences for ultimate good. In that sense it is very encouraging. I think the non-Christian would also benefit since it is extremely clear in its exposition of the relevant parts of scripture and leads to an understanding of God's purposes and love. It is available direct from Day One or Amazon UK priced £5