**One Service Next Week**

Pregnant women.

Are they the weakest among us…or the strongest?

On one hand, a pregnant woman seems to be the most vulnerable.

A woman and child.- symbiotically attached to one another. Its hard to imagine people more worthy of our protection and care…Which would indicate to me, they are the most vulnerable.

But then…there is something very powerful about a pregnant woman. Like, my wife, for example. She has never thrown anything at my head…except when she was pregnant.

One time our neighbor threw a late night party and woke up my wife up at 2 am, when she was pregnant.

He would tell you, there was nothing weak and vulnerable about her that night.

…and I gotta be honest with you, its hard to think of anyone tougher than a woman who carries another human being in her body for 40 weeks, and then goes through the agony of a marathon labor.

So…Pregnant women... The embodiment of weakness and vulnerability?…or grit, toughness, and power?

In a pregnant woman, there is both this present weakness…and also, the power of future hope…the power of a yet to be defined life…and the dogged determination that flows out of a mother who will do anything to make that future a reality.

Christmas, among other things, is about Pregnant Women.

**Series Slide**

And that brings me to what, I’m sure, is included in your annual holiday tradition. Nothing like lighting a fire, plugging in the Christmas Tree, making some popcorn & hot cocoa and putting in your Blu-Ray copy of the 1978 Christmas Classic, “Dawn of the Dead”.

Ok, so most people think of Dawn of the Dead as a zombie movie. …and I can see why. Probably because of all the zombies in it.

But I’d argue that “Dawn of the Dead” has more to do with Christmas than Santa Claus or Elf of the Shelf.

If I’m reading the Bible right, “Dawn of the Dead” is DEFINITELY a CHRISTMAS MOVIE.

Now, let me explain why. (Also, you should not watch this movie).

The plot is familiar. The dead are getting up and walking around. These zombies are motivated only by raw instinct. They have no emotion, no thought, no compassion. They can’t communicate, yet they act with a mob mentality. They consume in hordes.

…and never stop to think about the meaning of life, or things they can’t see, like, love, or peace, or…[**PAUSE]** God.

* Zombies appear to be human…but they’re dead.
* **And their consumption is contagious.**
* You know where the zombies end up in “Dawn of the Dead”?
* A shopping mall.
* Francine, the lead female character at one point asks, “Why are they going to the mall?”

The reply she gets is this…

* “Its some kind of instinct. A memory of what they used to do. This was a place that was important to them.”

**Translation-** In life, these zombies people were consumers. Shopping, consuming, was an instinct to them. To buy. To amass stuff. They were always at the mall looking for satisfaction. Peace. Distraction. Comfort.

But they never found it. Always consuming, but Never satisfied. That’s a zombie.

Well, in “Dawn of the Dead”, Francine and the 3 or 4 men with her end up exterminating all the zombies in the mall, and then barricading it up to keep the other ones out.

And they set up a nice living space for themselves in the mall for several months.

Then there’s this haunting music montage in the middle of the movie. With really strange upbeat music. While the music plays, Francine and the survivors are fully indulging in all the mall has to offer. Like they are going into the candy store and bagging up tons of candy.

They are playing in the arcade. Dressing themselves in big fur coats. Taking money out of cash register drawers in the bank while they pose with stacks of cash for the security camera.

In other words, they have become consumers…even though they aren’t zombies…yet.

And slowly you start to wonder… “What’s really the difference in the living and the dead?”

…

Slowly, over the months living in the mall, its revealed by her growing belly, that Francine is Pregnant.

And because of this child on the way, she’s disillusioned with simply staying in the mall and living off the fat of the land. She knows that time is running out, and that the zombies will eventually get into the mall.

…and they do. In fact, she even fights one off with her bare hands. But the other men with her are too drunk with the access they have to unlimited pleasure.

In the final scene of the movie, the zombies overrun the mall. Francine escapes to the roof where there is a helicopter she has learned to fly, preparing for the day of escape.

And inside, all the other guys are overtaken by the zombies. Except Peter. Who just as he is about to give in to his death and let the zombies overtake him, apparently inspired by Francine’s tenacity, chooses to fight his way to the roof. He climbs aboard the helicopter and Francine flies them both away from the mall….to salvation.

The hope of a future world that escapes death and finds peace. All dependent on a pregnant woman and a man… taking a very uncertain trip into the countryside.

I told you it was a Xmas movie.

* **Title Slide- “Dawn for the Dead: How Christmas Rescues Us from the Consuming Power of Sex & Money” Genesis 38**

In Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus, you know, the really boring beginning to the New Testament,…Matthew lists 5 women. 5 women who through their very controversial pregnancies…bring hope to the world.

Over the next 4 weeks, we’re going to flashback to look at each of these 5 women...and why they’re honored to be Jesus’ mothers. Each of them are Pregnant women surrounded by consuming zombies…but, thankfully…they make it to the helicopter.

Tamar is the first woman listed in Jesus’ genealogy. And her story is tragic…but don’t worry...it ends beautifully.

**Matthew 1:1-3**

* **An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:**
* **2 Abraham fathered Isaac,**
* **Isaac fathered Jacob,**
* **Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,**

**3 Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar,**

**Transition:** Its important for you to know that what just happened in v 3 is something that shouldn’t have happened. See, genealogies at this time simply did not include women. Because the point of a genealogy in 1st century Palestine is not to accurately figure out who your great great grandparents are. The point of a genealogy is to prove that your worth something. In fact, King Herod famously had people removed from his geneaology in order to make him appear more royal than he actually was.

But, not only does Matthew include women. He includes women wrapped in scandal…and shame. Cue the Tamar Flashback.

**Genesis 38**

* **At that time Judah left his brothers and settled near an Adullamite named Hirah.**
* **2 There Judah saw the daughter of a Canaanite named Shua; he took her as a wife and slept with her. 3 She conceived and gave birth to a son, and he named him Er. 4 She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and named him Onan. 5 She gave birth to another son and named him Shelah. It was at Chezib that she gave birth to him.**
* **6 Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. 7 Now Er, Judah’s firstborn, was evil in the Lord’s sight, and the Lord put him to death. 8 Then Judah said to Onan, “Sleep with your brother’s wife. Perform your duty as her brother-in-law and produce offspring for your brother.” 9 But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, so whenever he slept with his brother’s wife, he released his semen on the ground so that he would not produce offspring for his brother. 10 What he did was evil in the Lord’s sight, so he put him to death also.**
* **11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “Remain a widow in your father’s house until my son Shelah grows up.” For he thought, “He might die too, like his brothers.” So Tamar went to live in her father’s house.**
* **12 After a long time Judah’s wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had finished mourning, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers. 13 Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep.” 14 So she took off her widow’s clothes, veiled her face, covered herself, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the way to Timnah. For she saw that, though Shelah had grown up, she had not been given to him as a wife. 15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.**
* **16 He went over to her and said, “Come, let me sleep with you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law.**
* **She said, “What will you give me for sleeping with me? ”**
* **17 “I will send you a young goat from my flock,” he replied.**
* **But she said, “Only if you leave something with me until you send it.”**
* **18 “What should I give you? ” he asked.**
* **She answered, “Your signet ring, your cord, and the staff in your hand.” So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him. 19 She got up and left, then removed her veil and put her widow’s clothes back on.**
* **20 When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get back the items he had left with the woman, he could not find her. 21 He asked the men of the place, “Where is the cult prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim? ”**
* **“There has been no cult prostitute here,” they answered.**
* **22 So the Adullamite returned to Judah, saying, “I couldn’t find her, and besides, the men of the place said, ‘There has been no cult prostitute here.’ ”**
* **23 Judah replied, “Let her keep the items for herself; otherwise we will become a laughingstock. After all, I did send this young goat, but you couldn’t find her.”**
* **24 About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law, Tamar, has been acting like a prostitute, and now she is pregnant.”**
* **“Bring her out,” Judah said, “and let her be burned to death! ”**
* **25 As she was being brought out, she sent her father-in-law this message: “I am pregnant by the man to whom these items belong.” And she added, “Examine them. Whose signet ring, cord, and staff are these? ”**
* **26 Judah recognized them and said, “She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her intimately again.**

**27 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb. 28 As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand, and the midwife took it and tied a scarlet thread around it, announcing, “This one came out first.” 29 But then he pulled his hand back, out came his brother, and she said, “What a breakout you have made for yourself! ” So he was named Perez. 30 Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread tied to his hand, came out, and was named Zerah**.

**Transition:** Today, I want to show you the zombie-like consumption that surrounded Tamar…and then I want to show the hopeful helicopter this pregnant woman pilots to salvation.

* **1) The consuming power of sex & money can’t save you. In fact, it kills you.**
  + The first thing I want you notice about this passage is how much sex and money are tied together.
  + Sex and money have this very interesting relationship.
  + They are both good gifts of God intended to be used to serve, but selfishly, we turn them into means of consuming.
  + Sex is intended to serve a spouse, to cement a bond between to people who have made an unconditional promise to each other.
  + And its intended to serve society by creating children and families and strong marriages.
  + Money is intended to bring order to our society. And to be used generously to provide for others’ needs.
  + But often, sex is used selfishly. Simply as a means of pleasure, without regard for the emotional and spiritual bonds it forms between 2 people. Men often reduce women to objects of pleasure, instead of fellow human beings to share with and serve.
  + And money, well, all you need to do is look at Black Friday fights in Wal-Mart aisles to see what we’ve done to Christmas. It’s become the most advertised and commercialized holiday in the American landscape…
  + See when the gifts of sex and money are dis-connected from the God, the giver…they become gods themselves.
  + …and their worshippers are zombies. Cosumers.
  + Like Onan.
  + **Gen 38:8**
  + Onan’s responsibility was to take care for the weak and vulnerable Tamar, his dead brother’s widow. That meant marrying her, and having kids with her. Because without kids, a woman in this culture would be considered worthless. She would have no one to take care of her.
  + But Onan is a zombie. He is in a role where he is supposed to be giving, but he’s consuming.
  + See, Onan knows that if Tamar gets pregnant by him and has kids, that those kids won’t be considered his. They will be considered his older brothers’ kids.
  + That means, that he loses money. He loses a big share of his inheritance. Because the majority of the inheritance would go to those kids and their mother…and not to Onan.

**Gen 38:9-10**

* + BUT, he still wants the sex. So he uses Tamar. He gets all the pleasure he wants from her. But he makes sure he doesn’t get her pregnant…because that would cost him financially.
  + He’s a zombie.
  + Over and over and over he’s consuming Tamar. Raping her. Using her for his own pleasure, but content for her to be cast aside with no inheritance.
  + God says, “Sacrifice and care for the widow.”
  + Onan says, “Rape the widow for profit”
  + Don’t you see? Onan has to make his own inheritance. He has to provide his own financially secure future. He has to feed his flesh.
  + He is trying to save himself, by consuming Tamar.
  + …and so, God takes him all the way to death. Because he’s half way there already.
  + But Onan’s not the only zombie here.
  + **Gen 38:11**
  + Look what Judah does with Tamar, whom both her older sons have abused and mistreated.
  + He blames her. He blames the vulnerable victim.
  + Did you see it in that verse?
  + On one hand he tells her “Don’t worry, I’ll take care of you. Just remain a widow, and when Shelah, my younger son, grows up he’ll marry you.”
  + But he doesn’t intend that at all. See, he blames Tamar for the death of his sons.
  + He can’t possibly imagine a world where his family would ever be in the wrong. So, its Tamar’s fault his older sons are dead.
  + Judah blames Tamar, and hates her for turning his boys into zombies. But they were already walking dead when they found Tamar.
  + But that doesn’t matter to the self-righteous. Once you decide that your sin, or your family’s sin, or your churches sin, can’t possibly be worse than anyone else’s…even when hell is running over in your hallways…you’ll always point the finger outward and say “Its your fault”
  + Its Republicans fault. Democrats fault. Its that girl wearing the short skirt… Its her fault. Why are these women tempting me with the way they dress?
  + In the NT, James says
  + **James 1:14-15**
  + **But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**
  + **That’s a different kind of pregnant.**
  + When desire mates with temptation…it gives birth to sin…which grows up to make you a consuming zombie.
  + Always consuming. Never satisfied.
  + Now watch the zombie epidemic spread…now to Judah…and then to Tamar.
  + **Genesis 38:12-15**
  + Judah, Tamar’s Father-in-law, is mourning his dead wife.
  + But he’s the one becoming a zombie.
  + In the wake of his wife’s death, he goes on a business trip.
  + But he’s not just looking to make a few dollars on some sheep wool. He wants to comfort his soul…and so he’s going to get a prostitute.
  + Meanwhile, Tamar has lost 2 husbands. Both that abused her.
  + Both that used her…and Lied to her.
  + And she’s hung onto an empty promise from her father-in-law that Shelah, his next son, would marry and take care of her.
  + I’m sure for all those years waiting for her brother-in-law to grow up, she was already jaded. She was already beginning to change. She had been bitten more than once by the zombies.
  + …So, I don’t think she was surprised when the prey turned to the predator. When the abused turned to the abuser.
  + I think she knew Judah blamed her.
  + She probably blamed herself.
  + Whatever was going on in her head, we know she makes an active choice to take matters into her own hands.
  + If those who had power refused to care for the weak, well, then she would use the small amount of power she had to take over the situation.
  + So she takes off the clothing of the widow.
  + She takes off the clothes that said “I’m weak. I need help.”
  + **BECAUSE THAT NEVER WORKED FOR HER**
  + And she puts on the only clothing that gave her power. Through her sexuality.
  + A short skirt, some high heels…and a veil to cover her face…because she needs to de-humanize herself if she’s gonna be bait for a trap. She knows she can’t reveal who she really is. She has to cover her face, and uncover the rest of her body…if she’s going to have the power to save herself.
  + After all, Zombie’s never look into each other’s eyes.
  + Judah’s a zombie.
  + Now Tamar’s a zombie.
  + And they are about to eat one another alive.
* **Gen 38:16-19**
  + We know that Tamar’s plan has worked when Judah opens up his wallet.
  + Isn’t it sadly amazing that for years Tamar has been looking for Judah’s protection and care as a widow, and never gets it?
  + But as soon she becomes someone that can give him sex…he’s willing to let go of his money.
  + That’s what this goat is. Its like cash.
  + And when he leaves this signet ring with her, and his cord and staff, its like leaving your wallet behind with someone and telling them “I’ll bring you back what I owe you”
  + Do you wonder why pornography is by far the most profitable business on the internet?
  + Men and women who make all the excuses in the world to hang on to their money, to use it only on themselves…will quickly part with it to have higher internet speed so they can rape the actors on the screen in their minds over and over.
  + But everybody consents, right? So its no big deal.
  + But, you know, Tamar’s not really looking for money.
  + She’s looking for salvation. And she’s looking for justice.
  + And that’s exactly how she wants to use this baby. Let me show you.
  + **Gen 38:20-23**
  + Judah gets the sex he wants…and thinks “No one will ever know”..
  + See that? He lets his signet ring go, which is like his driver’s license, because what’s a unimportant prostitute gonna do with that?
  + She lives in a another town. She’ll never find him.
  + And if he goes searching for it, people will start to get suspicious.
  + After all, he can’t have people laughing at him. He’s got a reputation to uphold.
  + So, Judah thinks he’s gotten off scot free.
  + Judah thinks no one will suspect he’s a zombie.
  + Judah thinks that his internet browser history has been successfully cleared.
  + He thinks everything has been neatly covered and hidden away.
  + But, it hasn't.
  + **Gen 38:24**
  + The truth is revealed through a pregnant woman.
  + Isn’t that a summary of Christmas?
  + **The truth is revealed through a pregnant woman**.
  + Judah is now at the peak of his self-righteous, self-serving consumption.
  + Even though he knows he’s guilty of sin, he demands Tamar be burned for hers!
  + Being burned alive was the worst form of execution.
  + The fact that Judah wants Tamar to burn is showing us that he has always hated her. He has always blamed her for killing his sons. He has always blamed the victim.
  + And now he’s got a reason to return the favor.
  + He’s an abuser owned by his own hate. He’s a zombie. A predator. A consumer. And now, in the ultimate act of consumption…he’ll throw the object of his hate in the fire.
  + Hurt people, hurt people. And self-righteous hurt people are the most dangerous kind.
  + But then, just when things seem their worst, something happens. Something changes.
  + I think I hear the blades of a helicopter on the roof.
  + **Gen 38:25-26**
  + There’s this scene in Dawn of the Dead. Right after the music montage of the mall’s human residents raiding all the stores, and giving into their consumeristic desires.
  + They are standing on the second floor of the mall, in their fur coats. Looking down on a few of the zombies below, and Francine asks the question… “What are they?”
  + Peter replies, “They’re us. That’s all.”
  + It's a sort of quiet realization of the truth, that they are greedy consumers, just like the zombies.
  + And that’s exactly what happens to Judah here.
  + For this entire story, Judah has pitted himself as the more righteous.
  + For this entire story, Judah has covered his sin. All the way back to the previous chapter where he tried to kill his brother…(I haven’t even told you about that)
  + Then finally, his sin is exposed. Tamar shows the world his internet history. Tamar pulls his mask off.
  + …and everyone can see his rotting flesh.
  + Everyone can see he’s a zombie.
  + And look what happens. Judah stops pretending. He stops hiding. He finally tells the truth.
  + “She is more righteous than I, because I didn’t take care of her.”
  + I was the zombie who consumed her.
  + This is the Dawn of the Dead moment for Judah.
  + He looks at Tamar and instead of the desire to burn her….he answers the question “What are they?”
  + With the haunting reply. “They’re us. That’s all.”
  + I did this to her. I consumed her before she ever consumed me.
  + I pushed her out on the ledge.
  + Notice, he doesn’t say “she is righteous…” He’s not claiming Tamar hasn’t sinned. He’s not saying Tamar hasn’t hurt people.
  + He’s finally seeing his sin against Tamar as heavier, weightier than her sin against him.
  + He’s repenting. He’s making a turn. This is a breakthrough.
  + This is the start of something new. The tip of the iceberg of hope.
  + He loses the fear of being laughed at and says “My God..I’m a zombie.”
  + This confession and repentance…is the antidote to the disease.
  + And Tamar is about to get a heavy dose of it herself.
* **Gen 38:27-30**
  + This seems an odd way to end this portion of the Scripture doesn’t it?
  + Twins?
  + A Scarlet thread?
  + And some sort of crazy birth?
  + This is why you hate the Bible right?
  + Because of stupid stuff like this that has no relevance to your life?
  + But the truth is, if you’re a zombie….I don’t know that you’ll find a more relevant truth anywhere in all of literature.
  + We learn something about Tamar here. She hasn’t learned anything.
  + See, when she was being sexually abused, her hope of salvation was getting Er, or Onan, or Judah…to care for her.
  + When those people break her trust…when they prove themselves false saviors that hurt her…
  + …she turns to the abuse of power through sex.
  + And that gives her another human to hope in.
  + Twins. Twin boys.
  + If her father-in-law couldn’t save her, if her husbands couldn’t save her…surely her children would.
  + ESPECIALLY her oldest son.
  + See, the oldest son would finally give her the inheritance she needed. The oldest son would make her worth something. The oldest son would now be her power to be someone. To save herself.
  + So, when the firstborn sticks his hand out of the womb, she quickly has a scarlet thread tied on his hand. To be sure she knows which of these twins is her salvation.
  + But there’s another little guy in there that works his way to the front and actually comes out first.
  + She put her hope in her first born, but God would was not working that way. He was not going to let her self-destruct,
  + So, instead Perez is born first. Now, Zerah was the first born. Zerah was the inheritance because he had already been declared that.
  + But, God is showing Tamar something here. He’s showing her that here idea of salvation, of security will not come by HER Scarlet Thread.
  + She will only breakthrough her past if she lets Perez lead the way.
  + …and that’s what Perez means. It means “Breakthrough”. A surprising breakthrough.
  + And just after Perez came out, out came Zerah with a scarlet thread.
  + Out came the child that Tamar thought would save her…but she was wrong…and she knew it. And that scarlet thread was there to remind her that her best efforts to define salvation for herself, will always fail.
  + Hmmmm.
  + An unexpected birth.
  + A child that everyone thought too weak to be a savior.
  + And yet…just a few verses down from Tamar’s name in Matthew’s Genealogy, if you follow the real Scarlet Thread…its attached to the wrist of another unexpected Baby.
* **Matt 1:21**
* **She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”**
* **Transition:** There are those helicopter blades again! Hope for the weak, the abused. An antidote for the hurting, the zombies. For anyone, who like Judah or Tamar…will see their own prescription for salvation won’t work. It won’t come through money, or sex, or the perceived power they bring…No. Hope is pregnant. And salvation comes through an unexpected baby.

**2) Jesus is the Dawn for the Dead.**

* + George Romero, who directed Dawn of the Dead, had one other film before it.
  + Night of the Living Dead- Its more a Halloween flick. Not like Dawn of the Dead which is CLEARLY a Xmas movie.
  + Notice the titles. Night of the LIVING Dead.
  + Which all happens at night. Surrounding a graveyard.
  + The hope, is if you can escape the spooky graveyard and survive til the sun comes up at dawn…that all the scary stuff will disappear.
  + But 10 years later, Dawn of the Dead came out.
  + What Romero is saying with his titles is that evil isn’t frightened away by daylight. Evil persists.
  + In fact, his next film was called “Day of the Dead”
  + But Dawn has always been a symbol of hope.
  + Survive the night, and when light dawns, so your salvation will come.
  + Even though George Romero doesn’t carry that theme through his movies, the pregnant woman flying off the roof of the zombie ridden shopping mall, does.
  + And so does the Bible.
  + Later in Matthew’s gospel, he points out that Jesus is the fulfillment of a prophecy that Isaiah spoke.

**Matthew 4:16**

* + **The people who live in darkness**
  + **have seen a great light,**
  + **and for those living in the land of the shadow of death,**
  + **a light has dawned.**
  + I told Dawn of the Dead was Xmas Movie.
  + Just ask Matthew or Isaiah.
  + For those living the shopping mall with Zombies.
  + The light of living has dawned.
  + Salvation is hear.
  + The helicopter is on the roof.
  + The baby with the real scarlet thread is in the manger.
  + Don’t give up, you abused, you down-trodden, you sinners, you sinned-against, you hurting, you self-righteous, you wounded.
  + Don’t lose heart. For though your flesh is fading away like a zombie. The dawn is here…and he will renew your inner self day by day.
  + The old has passed. The new has come.
  + Take Heart Judah. Take heart Tamar. The Dawn FOR the Dead is here. And his name is Jesus.
  + **Matthew 1:1**
  + Do you know what the greek word for Genealogy used at the first of Matthew’s gospel is?
  + Its Genesis.
  + It's the word Genesis.
  + The NT opens with the words, “The account of the Genesis of Jesus Christ”
  + It's the account of New Creation.
  + And in this new creation Jesus is birthing, he’s creating a Kingdom where sin and evil consumption are done away with.
  + Where justice reigns…where no one gets away with any abuse.
  + Where tears stop, and mourning ceases.
  + Jesus is the Beginning…of the New Beginning. The Dawn for the Dead.
* **Back to 2)**
  + But there’s a big problem
  + Did you notice in the story of Judah and Tamar, that everybody was guilty. Judah and Tamar were sinned against, yes. But they were also sinners.
  + Judah’s sons sinned against him. And he mourned and hurt because of them.
  + Judah sinned against Tamar. And she mourned and hurt because of it.
  + And Tamar sinned against Judah.
  + See, we all want justice, but if we’re honest, justice has to come against us, as much as it comes FOR us.
  + That’s why Jesus is called a Savior.
  + Because in Jesus, the justice that is due to us…that would kill us for our sin…Jesus burns alive on a cross, in our place.
  + He doesn’t hold our sin in front of us to condemn us, like Judah and Tamar did to one another…instead, he takes the penalty for it, and he gives us his innocence. His righteousness.
  + Jesus blood on the cross, flowing out of him like a true Scarlet Thread, becomes our salvation.
  + And his Resurrection, becomes our light. Our hope.
  + Because of Jesus, you and I, the walking dead, can be born again into a living hope.
  + Not because we’ve proved ourselves with our money, or sex, or power.
  + But because Jesus lived the life we should have lived…generous, loving, not consuming, but giving.
  + And died the death we should have died…for our sins.
  + And resurrected to lead us to the New Beginning.
  + When the Son rose, from the dead…it was the Dawn FOR the Dead.
  + …and who knows…maybe the angels that sang to shepherds that night in the Bethlehem hills, were hovering in the sky…like a helicopter.