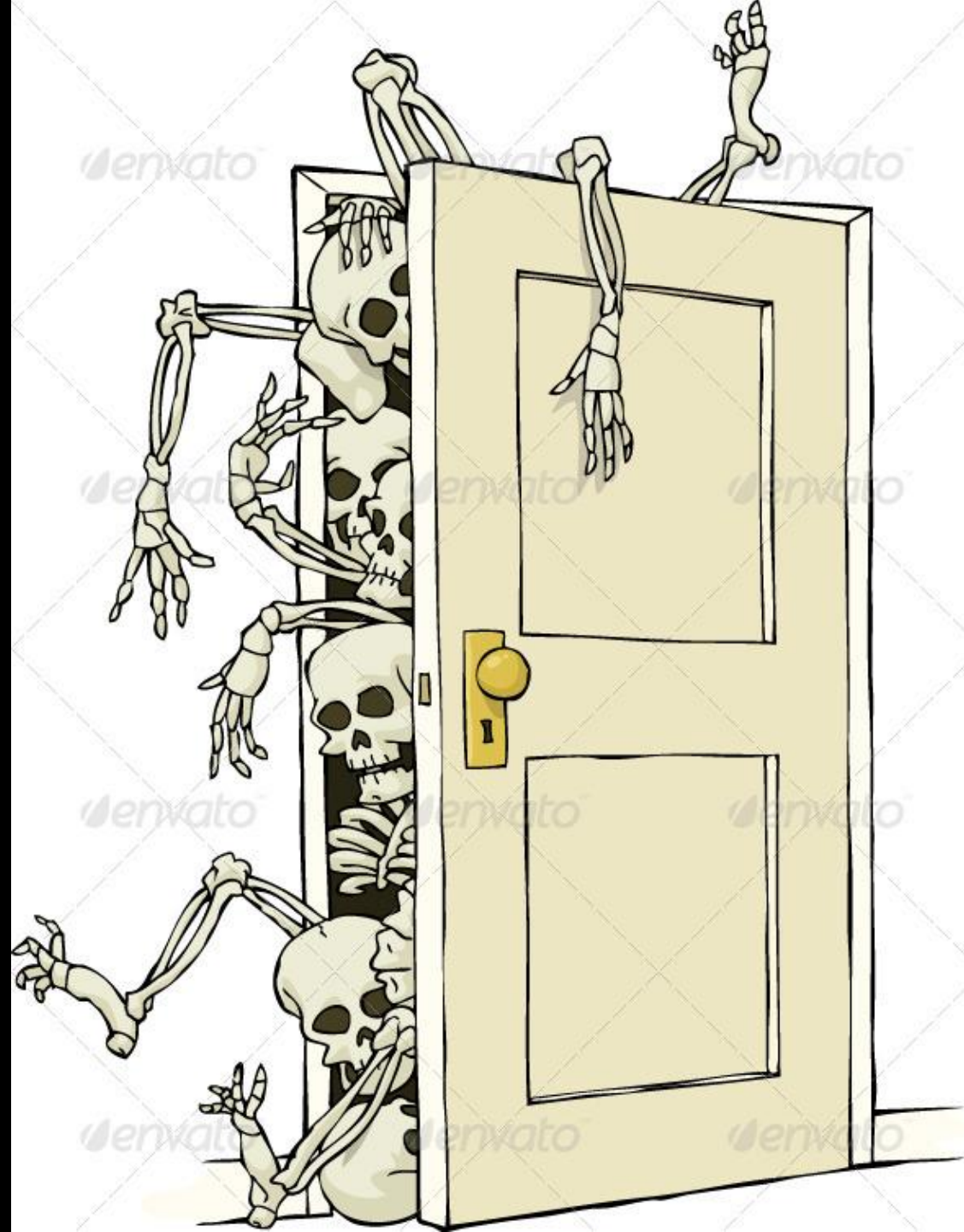






**Skeletons in the Closet**







"WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO CLEAN OUT THIS CLOSET?"

Skeletons In ...

# Skeletons In Jesus' Closet

# Decisions & Consequences



# Commonalities of All the **Grandmas** of Christmas

1. All **foreigners**.
2. All from different **races**.
3. All had **scandalous** stories.
4. All were **skeletons** in Jesus' closet.

# Skeletons in Jesus' Closet

**Matthew 1:1-6**

# Matthew 1:1-2

This is the **genealogy** of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

1. Decide to be **righteous**, and  
God will set you **free** –  
**Tamar.**

**Matthew 1:3**

# Matthew 1:3

Judah the father of Perez and Zerah,  
whose mother was **Tamar**, Perez the  
father of Hezron, Hezron the father  
of Ram,

## Genesis 38:6

Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn,  
and her name was **Tamar**.

## Genesis 38:13

When **Tamar** was told, “Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep...”

## Genesis 38:13-14a

When **Tamar** was told, “Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep <sup>14</sup>she took off her **widow’s** clothes, covered herself with a veil to **disguise** herself,



## Genesis 38:14b

and then sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that, though Shelah had now grown up, she had not been given to him as his wife.

# Genesis 38:15

When Judah saw her, he thought she was a **prostitute**, for she had covered her face.

## Genesis 38:16

Not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the roadside and said, “Come now, let me sleep with you.” “And what will you give me to sleep with you?” she asked.

## Genesis 38:18

He said, “What **pledge** should I give you?” “Your **seal** and its **cord**, and the **staff** in your hand,” she answered. So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him.

## Genesis 38:19

After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow's clothes again.

## Genesis 38:24

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!”

## Genesis 38:25

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.”

## Genesis 38:26

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.



2. Decide to be **moral** and God will give you a **2<sup>nd</sup> chance** –  
**Rahab.**

**Matthew 1:5a**

# Matthew 1:4

Ram the father of Amminadab,  
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,

# Matthew 1:5a

Salmon the father of Boaz,  
whose **mother was Rahab,**

## Joshua 2:1

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a **prostitute named Rahab** and stayed there.

## Joshua 6:22

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the **prostitute’s** house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.”

## Joshua 6:23

So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out **Rahab**, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

## Joshua 6:24

Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house.

## Joshua 6:25

But Joshua spared **Rahab the prostitute**, with her family and all who belonged to her, **because** she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and **she lives among the Israelites to this day.**



## James 2:25

In the same way, was not even **Rahab the prostitute considered righteous** for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

3. Decide to be **loyal**, and you'll  
have a **companion** for life-  
**Ruth**

**Matthew 1:5b**

# Matthew 1:5b

Boaz the father of Obed,  
whose mother was **Ruth**,  
Obed the father of Jesse,

## Ruth 1:1

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a **famine** in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of **Moab**.

## Ruth 1:2

The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to **Moab** and lived there.

## Ruth 1:3

Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband,  
died, and she was left with her  
two sons.

## Ruth 1:4-5

They married **Moabite** women, one named Orpah and the other **Ruth**. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

## Ruth 1:14-15

At this they wept aloud again. Then

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law  
goodbye, but **Ruth clung to her.**

<sup>15</sup>“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. **Go back with her.**”



## Ruth 1:16

But **Ruth** replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and **your God my God.**”

## Ruth 1:17

Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the **LORD** deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

4. Decide Jesus can **forgive** you,  
and Jesus **will** – Bathsheba.

**Matthew 1:6**

## Matthew 1:6

and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon,

whose **mother had been**

**Uriah's wife,**

## 2 Samuel 11:2

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,

## 2 Samuel 11:3-4a

and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is **Bathsheba**, the daughter of Eliam and the **wife** of Uriah the **Hittite**.”

<sup>4</sup>Then David **sent** messengers to get her. **She came to him**, and he slept with her.



## 2 Samuel 11:26

When Uriah's **wife** heard that her husband was dead, she **mourned** for him.



## Luke 23:34a

Jesus said, “Father, **forgive** them,  
for they do not know what they  
are doing.

# Skeletons in Jesus' Closet

1. Decide to be **righteous**, and God will set me **free** – Tamar.
2. Decide to be **moral** and God will give you a **2<sup>nd</sup> chance** – Rahab.

# Skeletons in Jesus' Closet

3. Decide to be **loyal**, and you'll have a **companion** for life – **Ruth**.
4. Decide Jesus can **forgive** you, and Jesus **will** – **Bathsheba**.

When Are You Going to Clean Out  
the **Skeletons** In Your Closet?

**Cleaning Season begins Today!**