

Genesis - Lesson 34

Genesis Chapter 34

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I. Jacob's Daughter Shamed And Disgraced

Gen 34:1 And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

Gen 34:2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.

Gen 34:3 And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel.

Gen 34:4 And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel to wife.

Gen 34:5 And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come.

Gen 34:6 And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him.

Gen 34:7 And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done.

Dinah went out to see the daughters of the land, and became involved in immoral sin. Fornication and adultery have always been wrong and always will be wrong. Whether Shechem forced himself on the girl or they were in agreement to commit the sin is not clear. Verse 3 says Shechem desired her as his wife. Jacob found out about the sin, but it says he held his peace. However, Dinah's brothers were very angry.

Gen 34:8 And Hamor communed with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him to wife.

Gen 34:9 And make ye marriages with us, and give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you.

Gen 34:10 And ye shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade ye therein, and get you possessions therein.

Gen 34:11 And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give.

Gen 34:12 Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife.

Hamor, the father of Shechem, proposes that their families intermarry. Hamor admits no fault or sin on his son's part. He proposes that this be the beginning of many marriages. Of course it was not God's will for them to marry unbelievers. We have read the verses about not being yoked to unbelievers many times.

Gen 34:13 And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and

said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister:

Gen 34:14 And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us:

Gen 34:15 But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcised;

Gen 34:16 Then will we give our daughters unto you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.

Gen 34:17 But if ye will not hearken unto us, to be circumcised; then will we take our daughter, and we will be gone.

Gen 34:18 And their words pleased Hamor, and Shechem Hamor's son.

Gen 34:19 And the young man deferred not to do the thing, because he had delight in Jacob's daughter: and he was more honourable than all the house of his father.

Gen 34:20 And Hamor and Shechem his son came unto the gate of their city, and communed with the men of their city, saying,

Gen 34:21 These men are peaceable with us; therefore let them dwell in the land, and trade therein; for the land, behold, it is large enough for them; let us take their daughters to us for wives, and let us give them our daughters.

Gen 34:22 Only herein will the men consent unto us for to dwell with us, to be one people, if every male among us be circumcised, as they are circumcised.

Gen 34:23 Shall not their cattle and their substance and every beast of theirs be ours? only let us consent unto them, and they will dwell with us.

Gen 34:24 And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city.

The Sons of Jacob demand that Shechem and all his family be circumcised. This was a clever but deceitful plan. Hamor's people comply for deceitful reasons as they want to take their cattle and all their substance and dwell with them. So they agree to be circumcised as was the manor of the Jews.

Matthew Henry said this about Shechem and his family's plans.

Shall not their cattle and their substance be ours? They observed that Jacob's sons were industrious thriving people, and promised themselves and their neighbors advantage by an alliance with them; it would improve ground and trade, and bring money into their country. Now, [1.] It was bad enough to marry upon this principle: yet we see covetousness the greatest matchmaker in the world, and nothing designed so much, with many, as the laying of house to house, and field to field, without regard had to any other consideration. [2.] It was worse to be circumcised upon this principle. The Shechemites will embrace the religion of Jacob's family only in hopes of interesting themselves thereby in the riches of that family. Thus there are many with whom gain is godliness, and who are more governed and influenced by their secular interest than by any principle of their religion.

Gen 34:25 And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

Gen 34:26 And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out.

Gen 34:27 The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.

Gen 34:28 They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field,

Gen 34:29 And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in the house.

Gen 34:30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

Gen 34:31 And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?

The young men do what they had planned from the beginning. Levi and Simeon massacre the Shechemites. While they were sick and sore from surgery, they were easy victims for slaughter. It is amazing how we are remembered for who we truly are. Genesis 49 records what Simeon and Levi were remembered as by their father.

Gen 49:5 Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.

Gen 49:6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.

Gen 49:7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

Verse 28 tells of how the city was sacked and captives taken. After the slaughter, Jacob feared the friends and allies of the Shechemites and tells the boys that they may be destroyed for their actions.

LESSONS: God had directed Jacob back to Bethel, but he settled in Shechem. He had deceived Esau. He failed to train and protect his daughter in this heathen land. However, neither the sins of Jacob, the sins of the Shechemites, nor the sins of his sons, kept God from protecting Jacob and his family from the oblivion that would certainly come, if they had intermarried with the heathen.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How many men did Esau have with him when Jacob met him?

400

2. Give the order in which Jacob placed his family as he prepared to meet Esau.

He sent the gifts of the animals and the servants to the front, followed by the

handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.

3. How did Jacob say that Esau's face appeared to him?

As the face of God

4. What did Jacob see in the face of Esau?

That he was pleased with him.

5. Describe the meeting between Jacob and Esau.

Jacob bowed down 7 times to Esau, and Esau came and hugged him and kissed his long lost brother and they wept together.

6. What did Esau propose concerning the journey ahead?

He suggested they go together and he would go before him. However when Jacob said they could not go quickly, he suggests that he leave some of the men behind to help Jacob. But all offers were refused by Jacob.

7. Jacob did not travel with Esau but turned aside to what place?

Succoth

8. What was the first act of Jacob in Succoth?

Built a house and booths and shelter for the cattle.

9. What was the name of the altar that Jacob erected here?

Elelohe-Israel.

Gen 33:18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.

Gen 33:19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.

Gen 33:20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.

10. What does the word "Shalem" mean?

"Shalem" means "peace" and/or "safe and sound."

11. What was the name of Jacob's daughter?

Dinah

12. Who defiled her and what was the result?

Shechem, the son of Hamor. He comes and desires to take Dinah as his wife, but the brothers of Dinah were very upset.

13. What did Hamor propose that their families do?

That they intermarry and do business with one another.

14. What deceitful plan did Simeon and Levi devise against these men of Shechem?

They told them that they needed to be circumcised as was the manor of the Jews. When they agreed and were sore from the surgery, they came in and destroyed all the men and took their families and possessions.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.