

## In the Beginning

### Genesis 34:1-31

- It's been quite the journey for Jacob as we've seen him **lying** to his father to get what he thought he wanted, to **listening** to God in a dream in order to take him where he was going. We've seen him **learning** the hard way as his uncle Laban regularly outsmarts him, to facing Esau his brother **leaning** on a staff after his encounter with Jesus, and finally we read that he is **limping** away after erecting an altar called "El Elohe Israel" > God the God of Israel, as he settles in Shechem.

### V1-31

- **V1-4** Dinah Jacob's only daughter ventures out to see if she can find some women to talk with as being around 11 brothers you can understand her desire for more female companionship. The question is was Dinah naïve to her surroundings, or was she rebellious to the commands of her parents, or just plain ignorant of the ways of the world, because why she's out by herself in a strange territory that she didn't know anyone where anything could happen to her were not told, all we read is the tragic results that happen because she was by herself in the city.
- The son of King Hamor sees her and rapes her, then afterward says he wants her as one of his wives, so he tells his father to go and speak with Jacob about giving her to him. **V5-6** after Jacob hears of it he waits for his sons to come out of the field before discussing it with them, what has happened goes completely against anything that Jacob knows as Godly, for before you could even approach someone's daughter to court her you had to get permission from the father.
- Shechem had skipped the formalities and taken her against her will and afterward decides that he likes her after forcing himself on her so this is only lust as he doesn't know anything about her and his father looks to barter with Jacob like she was some kind of livestock you can buy or sell. So we see **carelessness** on Dinah's part, then we see **defilement** by Shechem the prince of the land, and now we are going to see things become even worse once Jacob's sons get involved
- **V7-12** the brothers are furious at what has happened but the King tries to quell their anger by saying this is not so bad as this could be the start of us beginning to intermarry with one another starting with your sister and my son. Anything that begins with defilement cannot end up good without repentance and a complete change of thinking and direction, unfortunately many try to turn a bad thing into a God thing instead of letting it go and starting fresh that He may bless it if it is going to honor Him in the end, Hamor simply says my son did something impulsively but he wants to make amends and marry Dinah and you guys can prosper off of this so it's a win-win.
- **V13-18** after **Carelessness** and **Defilement** come **Deception**, as Jacob's boys answer with a counteroffer that if all the men agree to be circumcised. Later we learn that Simeon and Levi are the main ones leading this ruse and they use spiritual words to cover up their evil intention and sadly many do the same today, they believe the motive justifies the means and if this is what it takes to avenge our sister's honor then so be it, we'll deal with the consequences later.

- **V19-24** if Shechem was the most honorable than the rest of Hamor's children and family what does that say about the morals and values of the Canaanites. So to sell the rest of the men on the idea of being circumcised as a grown man they placed as motivation that by marrying into such a wealthy family we can eventually control all of the livestock, property, and animals they currently possess, so in a sense Hamor saw this as an opportunity to absorb Israel, and with it all the promises and blessings God made to them will now belong to him and his family.
- People this is how the Devil works, spiritual warfare is not all swords, knives, blood and guts, its strategy, and slick moves that the Devil makes against us and were completely unaware of what he is doing. If Jacob agrees with this and his family begins to intermarry they not only bring their customs and immorality but also their false gods as well and this is what eventually led to the downfall of Solomon which caused the nation of Israel to be split into two nations.
- **V26-29** after **Deception** we see **Vengeance**, it takes a week for anyone who has been circumcised to heal in such a way that they can move around and fend for themselves, so Simeon and Levi take their weapons and go through the city killing Hamor the King, his son Shechem, and they take Dinah out of Shechem's house. So part of the deal was forget the courtship and wedding, once they agreed to get circumcised Dinah was given to Shechem and she was living in his house as wife until her brothers come with the sword of vengeance.
- They just don't take Dinah but they see this as an opportunity to enhance their wealth also and looted the entire city by taking all the livestock, animals and wealth they could carry, even taking the children and wives as slaves wow! **V30-31** Jacob didn't know that this is what his sons were planning so he's both angry-afraid, angry that they disobeyed him and plotted behind his back and afraid that once the neighboring nations heard what had happened that he would now be a target for them to come after, so now he'd be looking behind his shoulder for retaliation.
- Before we conclude I have to go back to the beginning, when Dinah went out without any chaperones, we can blame it on a teenager's naïveté's, but in truth it was Jacob's lack of attention and protection that was partially at fault here, and it was Jacob's disobedience that actually brought them here to begin with, what do you mean?
- **Gen 31:13** God told Jacob to go back to Bethel and to his family but instead he didn't want anything to do with Esau or Isaac so he charted his own path and it led to Shechem a place he was not suppose to be. In reality it was Jacob's Disobedience, that led to Dinah's **Carelessness**, that resulted in Shechem's **Defilement**, that led to his sons **Deception** and ultimately their **Vengeance**, but it started with Jacob's **Disobedience**. This is how the sons could respond so disrespectfully to their father, as they've seen him scheme, disobey, and play favorites all their lives, so to them if they don't look out for themselves in their mind who will!