

Genesis Chapter 34: Giving God's Enemies Occasion to Blaspheme

Remember to Lift Up Jesus

Genesis Chapter 33 Review:

- God prepares Esau's heart to meet Jacob; **reconciliation**
- Peace with Laban behind/Esau in front; not because of Jacob's deceptive failed plans but by **God's intervention**; without which Jacob would have come to a violent end
- **Jacob's sins**; deception, polygamy, lack of parental leadership will now "**come home to roost**"

Genesis Chapter 34: Giving God's Enemies Occasion to Blaspheme

- **Jacob**: Now in the Promised Land **w/ a problem**; *how to keep his family Holy; set apart, in the midst of the Canaanites*. "Jacob now has a little house in the Suburbs" [JVM] before going to Bethel
- **3 Choices**: Absorption, Hostility,...or Holiness apart from his ungodly neighbors
- Jacob: **Where's Waldo?** Jacob's new name *not* used, we'll see why
- Jacob will let others to "Call the Shots": Daughter, Pagans, Sons

Reason 1: Abandonment

- Abdicating Our God Given Spiritual Roles and Responsibilities as Parents and/or Elders leading to **Deteriorating Social/Moral Fabric**
- Jacob temporarily abandons his God given role and responsibility as a Father, Spiritual Leader, and a Patriarch; wobbling on his new "**Spiritual Legs**"

1Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to **visit the daughters of the land**.

- **Dinah**; a teenager; evidently Leah's only daughter; living w/ 11 brothers
- Jacob's 4 wives lead a lack of unified, consistent, spiritual parenting
- 1 Father/1 Mother fulfilling their spiritual obligations
- Dinah visits the "pagan" daughters of the land inc. Customs, Religions, etc.
- **Sheltering vs. Anything Goes**: Fine Spirit led balance; discipline a must:

Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod **hates** his son, But he who **loves him disciplines** him diligently.

- Diversity; multi-culturalism; Paul Harvey: "**It is not 'one world'**":

2When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force [or "violated her"].

- **Hamor and Shechem**: Hivite [Canaanite] City chieftains
- **Violated**: Same word as 2 Sam 13:12,14 of Amnon and Tamar:

2 Samuel 13:12 [Tamar] answered him, "No, my brother, do not *violate* me, for such a thing is *not done in Israel*; do not do this disgraceful thing!

- **Not done in Israel**; i.e. among the godly [see v.7]
- **Promiscuity**: part of the religious system of Canaan; convenient

3He was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and **spoke tenderly to her**. 4So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "**Get me this young girl** for a wife."

- Loved the girl; Deeply attracted; Spoke tenderly: Lit. "**Spoke to her heart**"
- "Spoke to his father..." i.e. **Arranged marriage**:

Judges 14:2 So [Samson] came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, **get her for me** as a wife."

5Now Jacob heard that he [Shechem] had **defiled** Dinah his daughter; but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so **Jacob kept silent** until they came in. 6Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. 7Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were **grieved**, and **they were very angry** because he had done a **disgraceful thing in Israel** by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.

- **Jacob heard** [friends of Dinah?]**Been Defiled**: "to make unclean" Prayer?
- Hamor and Shechem enter *as if nothing happened*; brothers grieved and very angry speaking of the **Disgraceful thing**...in **Israel**: Ought not to be done.
- **Israel** now a clan moving toward becoming a nation
- Later in the law:

Deuteronomy 22:28 "If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her and they are discovered, 29 then the man who lay with her shall give to the girl's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; **he cannot divorce her all his days**."

- **As slavery** in the NT, God does not condone but deals with the reality of "what is"
- Marry and Cannot Divorce; must take care of: Disrespect and misery

2 Samuel 13:14 However, he would not listen to her; since he was stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. 15Then Amnon **hated her** with a very great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up, go away!"

- Jacobs sons fuming at the *business-like* tone

8But **Hamor spoke** with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. 9"**Intermarry with us**; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves. 10

"Thus you shall **live with us**, and the land shall be open before you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it." 11 Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "If I find favor in your sight, then I will give whatever you say to me. 12"Ask me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give according as you say to me; but give me the girl in marriage."

- **No apology** from Hamor or Shechem as they continue to make the deal...infuriating the boys even further
- **Hamor pleads** for his son; suggest **intermarriage** and **gifts**
- Jacob apparently "**checks-out**", delirious or numb, abdicating his responsibilities
 1. He would *not* have approved of the plan to **intermarry**; "**live with us**"

Genesis 28:1 ...Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, " You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

2. He would *not* have approved of the plan of **revenge**

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20"BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

13But **Jacob's sons answered** Shechem and his father Hamor **with deceit**, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.

- Sons answered...**with deceit**. Who's guess? **Apple not far from the tree!**
- Jacob allows his sons to speak and usurp his God-given authority
- Did Jacob spiritually rest after his spiritual victory/reconciliation with Esau?

2 Samuel 11:1 [Read] *Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. ²Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance

2 Samuel 12:13 [Read] Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD " And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. 14"However, because by this deed you have **given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme**, the child also that is born to you shall surely die." 15So Nathan went to his house.

- **Spiritual Vacation:** We don't have that luxury without disastrous results; i.e. Our witness to the world; Satan doesn't sleep

Enemies occasion to blaspheme when we shrink from our roles

Reason 2: Hypocrisy

- Sending Bibles and Pornography
- **Obama:** We are not a Christian Nation; a **fact** we don't like
- Religious when we need to be; when convenient or beneficial to us
- Pornography, violence, godlessness, parental and elder disrespect, etc.
- Taleban and al-Qaeda and our friends and family ...**self-justified**

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner **worthy of the calling** with which you have been called...

- Talk matches walk; equal scales; no cognitive dissonance [conflict]

14 They said to them, "**We cannot do** this thing, to give our sister to one who is **uncircumcised**, for that would be a disgrace to us. 15"Only on this condition will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you be circumcised, 16then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live with you and become one people. 17"But if you will not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go."

- We'll fix this ourselves; no mention of God; religious overtones

Proverbs 14:12 There is a **way** which **seems right** to a man, But its end is the **way** of death. [Also prov.16:25]

- **Using Religion:** Defiling a sacred ceremony for sinful purposes.
- Circumcision: Symbol of their "**Holy Faith**"; to be set apart.
- **Irony:** they are not setting themselves apart, but acting as the ungodly
- **Examples:** Indulgences, inquisition; mix religion and worldly practices
- Christians involved with adultery, pornography: **Giving excuse for God's enemies to blaspheme**
- **Plan:** Blasphemy, Murder, Deception and Cruelty

Micah 2:1 Woe to those who scheme [plan] iniquity, Who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, For it is in the power of their hands.

18Now their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son. 19The young man did not delay to do the thing, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. Now he was **more respected** than all the household of his father.

- Words seemed reasonable; no delay in circumcision; **he was delighted in Dinah**
- **Shechem more respected:** Others followed his encouragement and example as Hamor and Shechem pitch the sale:

20 So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the **gate of their city** and spoke to the men of their city, saying, 21 "These men are friendly with us; therefore let them live in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters in marriage, and give our daughters to them.

- **The Gate of the City:** Place of importance where royalty, judges and elders would sit. C.f. Ruth 4:1, 2 Samuel 15:2

22 "Only on this condition will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised. 23 "Will not their **livestock and their property and all their animals be ours?** Only let us consent to them, and they will live with us."

- Livestock, property animals: **Greed** [covetousness] **leads to destruction**
- Jacob's sons would stoop to same level
- Everyone fell for the deceit, **every** male was circumcised:

24 All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and to his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. 25 Now it came about on the **third day, when they were in pain**, that two of Jacob's sons, **Simeon and Levi**, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came upon the city unawares, **and killed every male**.

- **Third day:** Most painful
- Simeon/Levi now about 20 yrs; **Dinah's full brothers**
- Two-man war; **Killed every male**
- Simeon and Levi will reap what they sow as Jacob later prophesies:

Genesis 49:5 [Read] "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Their swords are **implements of violence**. 6 "Let my soul not enter into their council; Let not my glory be united with their assembly; Because **in their anger they slew men**, And in their **self-will they lamed oxen**. 7 "Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their **wrath**, for it is **cruel**. **I will disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel**.

- **Prophecy fulfilled:** Simeon descendants absorbed into the territory of Judah

Joshua 19:1 ...the second lot fell to Simeon, to the tribe of the sons of Simeon according to their families, and their inheritance was **in the midst of the inheritance** of the sons of Judah...**19:9** The inheritance of the sons of Simeon was **taken from the portion of the sons of Judah**, for the share of the sons of Judah was too large for them; so the sons of

Simeon received an inheritance **in the midst of Judah's** inheritance.

- **Prophecy fulfilled:** Levi's descendents dispersed; living in 48 towns and surrounding pasturelands:

Numbers 35:2 "Command the sons of Israel that they give to the Levites from the inheritance of their possession **cities to live in**; and you shall give to the Levites **pasture lands around the cities...** **35:7** "All the cities which you shall give to the Levites shall be forty-eight cities, together with their pasture lands.

Joshua 14:4 For the sons of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, and **they did not give a portion to the Levites** in the land, except cities to live in, with their pasture lands for their livestock and for their property.

Enemies occasion to blaspheme when our talk does not match our walk

Reason 3: Greed

- Greed separates us from God

Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, And the greedy man curses and spurns the LORD.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

- Greed is a sign of the last days

Romans 1:29 ...being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil...

- **America:** Cooperate scandals, ponzy schemes, inheritance fights, frivolous law suits, lust for oil, abortion [covet of time, money, convenience, sex]

Exodus 20:17 "You **shall not covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

1 Corinthians 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you **not to associate** with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or **covetous**, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

- Coveting common for the world; should not be for believers:

Ephesians 5:3 But immorality or any impurity or **greed** must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

1 Corinthians 5:10 I did not at all mean [not to associate] with the immoral people of this world, or with the **covetous** and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go

out of the world.

- **Final Insult:** Using their sister as an excuse to steal; i.e. sin

26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went forth. 27 Jacob's sons came upon the slain and **looted the city, because they had defiled their sister.**

- Apparently last they killed father and son last then took Dinah; **mortified**
- **Jacobs sons...looted:** Possibly all Jacob's sons involved and led by Simeon and Levi

28 [Jacob's sons] took their flocks and their herds and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field; 29 and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even all that was in the houses.

- Flocks, herds, little ones...everything; a **massacre**
- God would later restrain with the law; penalty fitting the crime:

Exodus 21:23b ...you shall appoint as a penalty **life for life**, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have **brought trouble on me** by making **me odious** [obnoxious] among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and my men being few in number, they will gather together against me and attack me and I will be destroyed, I and my household."

- No rebuke of the sin at this time; just "you have brought trouble on me" "making me stink" in their eyes. "I will be destroyed" Apparently no thought of God, daughter, anybody
- **Odious/Obnoxious:** Def: *vulnerable to harm; Heb. embarrassing odor to neighbors*
- Or, "You stink so bad I have to give you a beating"; Al chide; pornography from USA
- **Odious** Cf. Exodus 5:211, Samuel 13:42, Samuel 10:6
- Jacob abdicated his responsibility but was appalled at his sons actions

31 **But** they said, "Should **he** treat our sister as a harlot?"

- *At least we did something; disrespect*
- **Should he treat:** The boys knew Shechem alone should have been dealt with

Enemies occasion to blaspheme when we as sinful as the pagan world

Summary: Giving God's Enemies Occasion for Blasphemy

1. **Abandonment: Family Fabric Deterioration;** abdication [abandonment] of God given Roles and Responsibilities for Fathers, Mothers, Children and Spiritual Leaders
2. **Hypocrisy: Form of Godliness** in name only
3. **Greed: Covetousness; no different than the pagan world**
 - Jacob the Patriarch allowed others to **"Call the Shots"**. While he took a **"spiritual vacation"**, Satan kept working
 1. **Daughter:** "Go where you like"
 2. **Pagans:** "Did you say Intermarry?"
 3. **Sons:** "You boys deal with it"
 - Jacob evidently sufficiently humbled [at great cost] and ready for **Bethel**

Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle [2 Samuel 11:1]

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, **and after you have done everything, to stand.** [Ephesians 6:13]