



Genesis 33:18-34:31

“The REAL You”

Pastor Patrick Bowler
10-16-2022

Consult the Scriptures:

Genesis 33:18-34:31

(See also: Gen. 28:13-22; 17:1-14; 26:34, 29:32, 34; 35; 35:1; 49:1, 5-7;¹
2 Cor. 6:14; Mk. 3:25; Rom. 3:12, 23; Jn. 3:16; Heb. 12:2)

Consult the Scholars:

Depth of Mercy

By Charles Wesley (1740)

(1) Depth of mercy! Can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear,
Me, the chief of sinners, spare?

(2) I have long withstood His grace,
Long provoked Him to His face,
Would not hearken to His calls,
Grieved Him by a thousand falls.

(6) Jesus speaks, and pleads His blood!
He disarms the wrath of God;

¹ These passages in Genesis help build out the context important to chp. 34.

Now my Father's mercies move,
Justice lingers into love.

(9) There for me the Savior stands,
Shows His wounds and spreads His hands.
God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

(13) Now incline me to repent,
Let me now my sins lament,
Now my foul revolt deplore,
Weep, believe, and sin no more.

Discuss:

1. Pastor Patrick opened by asking, *"Which version of you did Jesus come to save?"* What did he mean by "which version of you?" What was his primary point?
2. Why is it a good thing that Scripture doesn't shy away from or try and dress up the ugly truth found within its pages? What does that tell us about the cross of Christ?
3. Pastor Patrick said, *"Scripture does not romanticize, neither does it sentimentalize the cross of Christ. It was as real and as bloody as the mess He stepped into."* What did he mean? How is that good news?
4. How does the above relate to the story in Genesis 34? Read it and discuss? What stands out to you in this story? What does this fit in the story of God? In other words, why is this story included?
5. It is difficult to find anything redemptive in this story. No one acts rightly. What was Shechem's sin? What was Jacob's sin? What about Dinah's brother? What are we to make of stories like this one?
6. Read Rom. 3:9-26 and discuss. How does this relate to the story in Gen. 34? How does this relate to the church today? How does it relate to you personally?
7. Pastor Patrick said that Jesus is the only hero in the Bible. Do you agree or disagree and why?

8. Read the above stanzas from hymn by Charles Wesley entitled, "*Depth of Mercy*" and discuss.
9. What immediate applications can be made considering this sermon? What question do you still have? Do you need to speak with someone?