

Genesis 34

Pastor Jim Thomas

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SERMON NOTES

Genesis

In the beginning...

Genesis 34

What happens when we leave God out?

1. Dinah reminds us of the vulnerability of naïveté
2. Shechem reminds us of the evils of entitlement thinking and the difference between lust and love.
3. Hamor reminds us that pretending to be moral doesn't make us holy.
4. Simeon and Levi remind us that only God can bring about true justice.

“All our fret and worry is caused by calculating without God.”

- Oswald Chambers

“Those who choose to live without God will one day find that they have forfeited their likeness to Him.”

- N.T. Wright

“What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could ‘be like gods’—could set up on their own as if they had created themselves—be their own masters—invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“Lust says, ‘What can you do for me?’ Love says, ‘What can I do for you?’”

- Tim Keller

“One of the great dangers for Christians and for the world is that we are far, far too religious. We go to religious movies, we read religious books, we associate with religious people, we eat religious cookies, and we wear religious underwear that is far too tight. Don’t get me wrong. I’m religious too. The problem is that the Holy Spirit isn’t.”

- Steve Brown, *What Was I Thinking?*

“Study all the philosophy, research all the religion and pursue all the personal improvement that you please—it will still end in frustration. Human reason can only take us so far. All our learning is empty without God.”

- Philip G. Ryken, *Why Everything Matters*

“We have rejected the position of dependence which our createdness inevitably involves, and made a bid for independence. Worse still, we have dared to proclaim our self-dependence, our autonomy, which is to claim the position occupied by God alone.”

- John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

“The harmony of God’s love and justice is perfectly symbolized by the death of Jesus on the cross. The crucifixion reveals the strictness of God’s justice in requiring a propitiation for all our sins. But it also shows the depth of His love because He Himself offers the required sacrifice.”

- Richard Lovelace, *Renewal as a Way of Life*