

Sermon Notes 5/23/21

“The Stench of Shechem”

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 34?

1. Work together to _____ one another.

Genesis 34:1

Luke 10:1-3

Galatians 6:1-2

2. Lead with _____ truth and justice.

Genesis 34:5, 13, 25

Micah 6:8

Romans 12:17-19

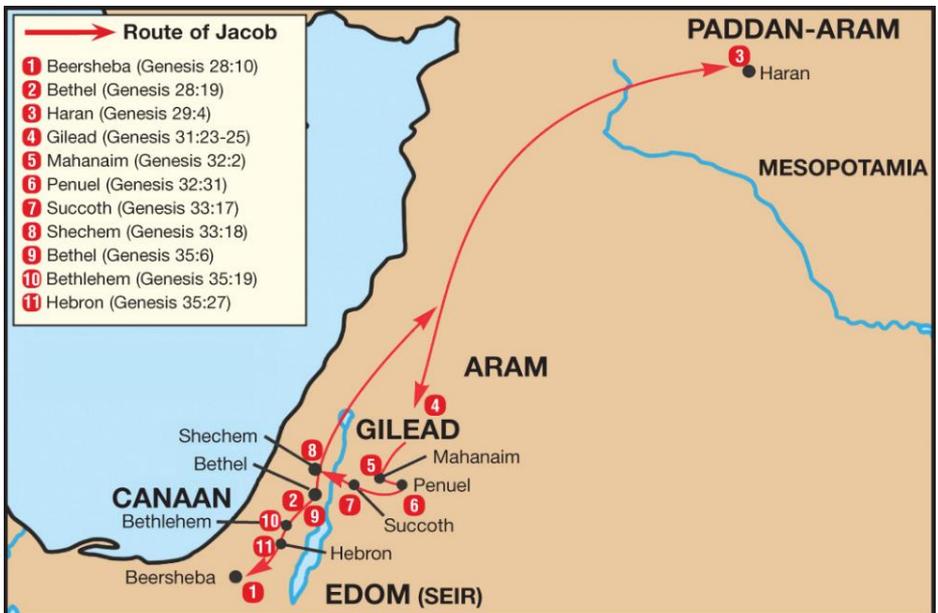
3. Be a _____ to the community.

Genesis 34:30

Genesis 49:5-7

1 Timothy 3:7

1 Peter 2:11-12



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 34: May 23-30

Genesis 34

In chapter 33, Jacob and his family finally arrived in the Promise land and camped near the town of Shechem. Jacob built an altar there at the same place where Abraham built an altar back in Genesis 12:7. However, in chapter 34, Jacob and his family experience a painful tragedy. Jacob's daughter, Dinah is raped by Shechem, the prince of the town. Shechem and his father Hamor use their influence to cover up Shechem's crime and establish a covenant with Israel. But the brothers of Dinah want revenge. So, they trick Hamor and Shechem with a plan that allows them to slaughter all the men of the town. God is not mentioned anywhere in this chapter. Nothing is said about Jacob praying, or seeking God's will. The spiritual leader of the family is passive. He doesn't even speak until verse 30. As a result, he fails to protect his daughter from rape, and he fails to protect his sons from revenge.

In this broken, sin-cursed world we cannot prevent all the tragedies or correct all the acts of injustice. However, God's word gives us the wisdom we need to avoid many of the tragedies in this world. And the gospel reminds us that whether we are victims of injustice or guilty of injustice, Jesus went to the cross as a victim of injustice to bring us healing and forgiveness. The gospel also gives us the assurance that God will correct every injustice when Christ returns.

Read Genesis 34:1-7

1. What did Dinah do in verse 1?

Paul Kissling notes,

For the original and canonical audiences the violence and sexual immorality of the inhabitants of the land was a real temptation. In the case of an unaccompanied young woman, it was a danger for Israel. This in no way places the blame on Dinah for what happened. But it does serve as a warning of what could happen when Israel interacted too closely with the inhabitants of the land.¹

¹ Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2009), 372.

2. What did Shechem do when he saw Dinah in verse 2?
3. What did Shechem do in verse 3? Why?
4. What did Shechem tell his father to do in verse 4?

Dinah was very impressionable at this point in her life. The Hebrew suggests that she was a young teenager, possibly even a pre-teen. She was Jacob's daughter by Leah, the wife he did not love. Every daughter needs to know that her father loves her. If she does not believe that her father loves her, she will look for that affection from someone else.

5. What did Jacob do in verse 5 when he heard that his daughter had been raped?

Kent Hughes writes,

Though Jacob's silence might have been prudential in part, his apathy casts him in an unfavorable light. Consider his passionate love for Joseph and Benjamin and his distress at their misfortunes. The truth is, Jacob never cared for Leah, and his attitude trickled down to her daughter and six sons. Indeed, Leah's less-loved sons would be at the forefront of selling his favorite son, Joseph, into Egypt.²

6. What did Jacob's sons think and feel when they heard what happened to their sister? (34:7)

Read Genesis 34:8-17

7. What did Hamor propose to Jacob and his sons? (34:8-10)
8. What did Shechem say to Dinah's father and brothers? (34:11-12)
9. Who responded to Hamor and Shechem in verse 13? How did they respond? Why?
10. What was the one condition the brothers insisted on before accepting the proposal of Hamor? (34:15-17)

² R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 413.

Not only are the brothers of Dinah deceitful and guilty of premeditated mass murder, but they are also using one of God's symbols of holiness to carry out their plan. Kissling observes,

The hypocrisy and horrid form of evil behind their scheme is shocking. A parallel would be forcing a person to be baptized in order to marry into the family only to drown the person during the process of baptism! The brothers have no intention of becoming one people with the Hivites. Their only motive is revenge for the sexual crime of Shechem. The fact that the punishment is to be meted out to the entire tribe is another indication of the excessive anger of the brothers.³

Read Genesis 34:18-24

11. What did Hamor and Shechem think of the counter proposal? (34:18)
12. Why did Hamor and Shechem go to the city gate in verse 20?
13. What did Hamor and Shechem say to try to get the men of the town to accept the plan? (34:21-23) (compare v. 10 to v. 23)
14. How did the men of the town respond to the proposal in verse 24?

Read Genesis 34:25-31

15. What did Simeon and Levi do in verses 25-26?
16. What did the sons of Jacob do after the massacre? (34:27-29)
17. What did Jacob say in verse 30? (see also Gen. 49:5-7)
18. What did Simeon and Levi say in verse 31?
19. What should Jacob have done differently in this chapter?
20. What should the brothers have done differently?
21. How can Christians work together to protect each other spiritually?
22. How can a church be a blessing to the community and not a stench?

³ Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 2*, 378.