

Genesis 34-36 – 16 January 2020

“React In The Flesh or Respond In The Spirit”

Introduction

- *We've seen much maturity in the life of Jacob
- *He's dealt w/ many self-inflicted wounds or problems.
- *He's dealt w/ many wounds caused by outside sins
- *Here we see the 1st stories of Jacob *or Israel* and his family back in the land of Canaan, the land of promise
- *Jacob was promised 1) a family 2) a land 3) Messiah
- *He's gaining a family and awaiting God to do the rest
- *Just b/c they're in the land of promise doesn't mean that they won't continue to face hardship.
- *As we'll see tonight, the question will always be,
Will we react in the flesh or respond in the Spirit?

There is a great difference between reacting (*to act in same manner*) and responding (*to return some action*)

1st we see Simeon and Levi w/ their brothers react in the flesh (Chap 34)

Read Chap 34:1-5

1. So Dinah began to hang out with the worldly Shechemites and Shechem himself raped her.
2. Jacob waits to respond as if waiting on the Lord to tell him what to do.
3. The sons of Jacob get the news & they'll react
4. Dinah is a picture of the human race.
 - a. Born of God (in the family of God)
 - b. Yet listens to the allure of the world (as Eve did in the Garden)
 - c. There's no better example of the human race's fall into sin (in the Garden) than the example of rape and defilement.
 - i. All precious blessings of God lay exposed
 - ii. All the joys of what could be stolen away
 - d. Good news: The story doesn't end here!!

Read Chap 34:6-12

1. Notice vs 9-10 – “you can gain the land and it’s blessings.
 - a. This is the temptation to gain what the Lord had promised for them...but in all the wrong ways.
 - b. Gaining the land this way would only be a short-term counterfeit of what God really has in store for them.
 - c. Read Matt 4:9 – Jesus was tempted w/ same
2. What should they do in this bad situation?
 - a. When things are bad, don’t make them worse w/ a fleshly decision that’s against God’s will.
 - b. There’s a balance needed to answer the worldly Shechemites.
 - i. Love your enemy and pray for them
 - ii. Don’t intermarry with the world

Read Chap 34:13-17

1. They have a plan, lie to make the men hurt, and kill them all when they're in great pain.
2. This is “reacting in the flesh”
 - a. Reacting in the flesh doesn’t have to be spontaneous, it can be planned as this is.
 - b. Reacting – same as the 1st bad act
 - i. You hurt us, we’re gonna hurt you.
 - ii. You broke the law & traditions, we’re gonna break law & tradition back on you

Read Chap 34:18-24

1. Shechem gets the buy-in from all the men of his city.
2. Notice vs 23 – This shows the selfishness on the part of Shechem. He’s a lustful man.

Read Chap 34:25-29

1. So, the massacre at Shechem
 - a. God implemented in the law later, eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth to limit the human fleshly desire for revenge.
 - b. God's not afraid to show imperfect man, chosen of God but very imperfect.
2. As we continue now to consider how Dinah is a picture of the human race.
 - a. We already saw
 - i. She's born in the family of God.
 - ii. She listened to the allure of the world
 - iii. She was incredibly defiled by the world
 - b. Now notice we this
 - i. Vs 25 – She's rescued after being considered dead for three days.
 - ii. Vs 26 – She's brought back to the family of God. (New Life)

- c. Only difference between this picture of redemption and God's redemption of humankind is that God's judgement is perfect.
 - i. Simeon & Levi will lose blessing from their Father Jacob (Gen 49) b/c of this vengeance
 - ii. God judges perfectly
 - 1. He waits to the right time to judge (Gen 15:16)
 - 2. He judges just the right amount (Rev 16:7)
 - 3. Righteousness is the very foundation of His throne (Psm 97:1-6)

Read Chap 34:30-31

- 1. So the result of reacting in the flesh
 - a. You make a bad situation worse
 - b. You bring judgement down on yourself
- 2. How should we respond to the horrible actions of sin and sinful people?
 - a. Turn to Rom 12:17-21

2nd we see experienced Jacob respond in the Spirit (Chap 35:1-15)

Read Chap 35:1-3 - Jacob responds to God's call

1. A call to go after God
 - a. Call Vs 1 "Arise and go up to Bethel."
 - b. Response Vs 2 "Put away ur strange gods"
2. A call to holiness
 - a. Call Vs 1 – "Make there an altar"
 - b. Response Vs 2 "Be clean / change clothes"
3. A call to return to his 1st love
 - a. Call Vs 1 – "I'm the same God as when you fled from Esau"
 - b. Response Vs 3 – God helps b4 & will again

Read Chap 35:4-7 – Jacob fulfills God's call

1. Vs 4 – Jacob persuaded the family to obey God
2. Everyone has to play a part in holiness.
 - a. Just ask Achan and his family in the days of Joshua.

Read Chap 35:8

1. We know nothing of Deborah, but's obviously precious to the family.
2. Allon-bachuth means *Oak of weeping*

Read Chap 35:9-13

1. As soon as Jacob responds to the Spirit, God immediately speaks to him
 - a. God wasn't mentioned once in Chap 34
 - b. Mentioned also once Jacob responds
2. After the horrible time of Gen 34, God reiterates His promises to Jacob.
 - a. This is 3rd time God has said or reminded Jacob of these promises. (Gen 28, 31, 32)
 - b. We need to keep reminding ourselves of what is true and right.
 - c. Keep going back to God and His Word.

Read Chap 38:14-15

1. The pillar and altar were to focus your worship

Final, we'll see remarks that either set up or end different individual's stories (Chap 35:16-36:43)

Read Chap 35:16-20 – Rachel & Benjamin

1. Rachel become a type of Israel who will mourn for the babies slaughtered in Bethlehem by Herod.
2. Ben-oni means *son of sorrows*
3. Benjamin means *son of my right hand (power)*
4. Out of pain comes the Messiah

Read Chap 35:21-26 – Reuben's sin

1. Reuben, the first born, shows great evil.
2. Taking your father's harem was ancient way of trying to take over the family.
3. Reuben will lose blessings from his father in Gen 49 b/c of this.
4. Praise God that He's in the business of redeeming sinners like them...like us.

Read Chap 35:27-29 – Isaac's death

1. Closing book on Isaac, lifespans still shortening.

(Don't read) Look at Chap 36 – Esau's family

1. This is like the “front matter” (preface, etc) of a book.
 - a. Many people skip it
 - b. It's there to make the rest of the story intelligible and round it out.
2. Read Vs 1 and 8 – We need this chapter to understand when we read future stories about Edom ...this is Esau's family.
3. Vs 2-7 – Esau's wives
4. Vs 8 – Mt Seir is where Esau's family settled – southeast side of the Dead Sea
5. Vs 9-43 – These are the descendants
 - a. Dukes and Kings scattered around this list
 - b. Obadiah says Esau's great sin was pride and self-exaltation.
 - c. Where did the nation of Israel later get the idea that they needed to reject God and ask for a king, from the very close extended family.

Conclusion –

Today we've seen 2 choices that we all face

1. Do you react in the flesh?
 - a. Do you repay evil for evil?
 - b. These decisions aren't always spontaneous, even when we slow down, we can still react in the flesh.
2. Do we respond in the Spirit?
 - a. It's never too late
 - i. To go hard after God
 - ii. To live in righteousness and holiness
 - iii. To return to your first love Jesus Christ

Remember to always look for Jesus & His plan of redemption in the Old Testament

1. There's always the cycle of life, death and new life.
2. Dinah considered dead for 3 days, was brought back