



# The Day Everything Went Wrong

Genesis 34:1-31

# Genesis 34:1-31

- A chapter without God
  - How many chapters of your life have no mention of God?
- There are four profound lessons in this chapter for believers and unbelievers:
  - Dinah traveled a path without God by taking reckless liberties.
  - Shechem and Hamor pursued abusive lust and greed.
  - The sons of Jacob enacted evil revenge.
  - Jacob abdicated his leadership responsibilities.

# Dinah Took Reckless Chances

- She ignored great danger to do what she wanted to do
  - Gen. 34:1 - “Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.”

# Shechem And Hamor Indulged In Lust And Greed

- Shechem saw Dinah and he wanted her, so he committed the crimes of kidnapping and sexual assault by violent force to get what he wanted
  - Gen. 34:2-4 - “And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her. 3 His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman. 4 So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, Get me this young woman as a wife.”

# Shechem And Hamor Indulged In Lust And Greed

- Hamor, his father, reduced it to financial terms: mergers and acquisitions
  - Gen. 34:6-12 - “Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. 7 And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done. 8 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. 9 And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves. 10 So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it. 11 Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. 12 Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife.”

# Shechem And Hamor Indulged In Lust And Greed

- Money or secular agreements will never resolve a single sin
  - 1John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

# Shechem And Hamor Indulged In Lust And Greed

- James 4:1-4 - “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

## Jacob's Sons Engaged In Evil Revenge

- Sometimes anger is an appropriate response, as long as one is angry without sinning
  - Eph. 5:26-27 - “Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.”
  - The command is to control anger, not to pretend it doesn't exist

# Jacob's Sons Engaged In Evil Revenge

- Even God becomes angry at times
  - Num. 22:22 - “Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him... (Balaam)”
  - Zech. 1:2-3 - “The LORD has been very angry with your fathers. 3 Therefore say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts: Return to Me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.”

# Jacob's Sons Engaged In Evil Revenge

- The brothers generated an evil plan of revenge
  - Gen. 34:13-17 - “But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. 14 And they said to them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us. 15 But on this condition we will consent to you: If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised, 16 then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. 17 But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone.”

# Jacob's Sons Engaged In Evil Revenge

- There was no prayer to God or inquiry into His will, just unrestrained revenge
  - Gen. 34:25-29 - “Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males. 26 And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out. 27 The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled. 28 They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field, 29 and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses.”

# Jacob's Sons Engaged In Evil Revenge

- God reserves vengeance for Himself, because only He can do it right.
  - Deut. 32:35 - “Vengeance is Mine, and recompense...”
  - Psalm 7:9 - “Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds”
  - Prov. 16:2 - “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits.”

## Jacob's Sons Engaged In Evil Revenge

- No matter how evil our adversaries, how painful the sin committed against us, or how angry and grieved we become over it, we may not sin in return
  - 1Peter 2:21-23 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”

# Jacob Neglected Leadership Over His Family

- He did not show leadership before or during the events of Genesis 34
  - He was there when she went off on her own, but did not stop her.
  - He didn't react or send for his sons when he heard the report of Dinah's assault.
  - He did not manifest leadership during the negotiations.
  - He did not demand justice when approached by Shechem and Hamor.
  - He passively listened to the secular offer made by the offenders.
  - He did not instruct his son to react without sinning
- Had Jacob stepped up at any point in this matter, the outcome could have been completely different

## Jacob Neglected Leadership Over His Family

- Jacob did not show good leadership after his sons sinned; he was only interested in how it affected him
  - Gen. 34:30-31 - “Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I. 31 But they said, Should he treat our sister like a harlot?”
- Because Jacob failed to exercise his rightful leadership, he bears some of the responsibility for what happened to Dinah, Shechem, Hamor, the men of the city, and his sons.

# Jacob Neglected Leadership Over His Family

- Fathers have no choice; they must actively lead the family
  - Deut. 4:9 - “Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren”
  - Deut. 6:7 - “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
  - Eph. 6:4 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

# The Day Everything Went Wrong

- What might have happened if God had been in this chapter?
  - Perhaps Dinah would have asked permission and an escort before leaving to meet up with other young folks
  - Perhaps Shechem would have respected the rights of Dinah and properly asked Jacob for her hand in marriage.
  - Perhaps Hamor would have punished his son and involved Jacob and Dinah in the matter
  - Perhaps the sons of Jacob would have asked their father to help them deal with their anger and to give them a proper way to handle this
  - Perhaps Jacob would have been a truly righteous man and good father and guided his daughter, sons, and neighbors in the will of God

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- Rom. 8:5-7 - “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”