

2 Wrongs Don't Make a Right It Make Twice as Much Wrong

Genesis Chapter 34

This chapter is next to impossible to teach positive life lesson. This chapter demonstrates the lowest level of morality in this family's history. It also demonstrates the Bible is true. Who would write this account about themselves or their ancestors except that it was true.

The name Jacob is used in this chapter. Not Israel. Jacob didn't obey the Lord. He went to Shechem instead of Bethel and even lied to Esau about it. A fine example for his children. (tongue in cheek) And we see the fruit of his example in the children. 6 results from Jacobs example.

Gen 34:1 1) The Rape of Dinah vs 1-24

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land.

- **1st of 6 Problems Result in this Family – Dissatisfaction & Instant Gratification**
- *Dinah was a teenager (14 - 18) and of Jacob. Israel. A chosen people. But this girl wanted to go out and see how the other girls lived. She wanted to see the daughters of the land.*
- *Isn't it interesting that we have the favor and blessing of the Almighty creator yet we measure ourselves by the community/culture around us. What do they have? What do they do? What am I missing out on?*
- *A way this difficulty has been measured has been called the marshmallow test. A researcher gives this choice to a four-year-old: "I am leaving for a few minutes to run an errand, and you can have this marshmallow while I am gone, but if you wait until I return, you can have two marshmallows." Researchers at Stanford did this test in the 1960's, and a dozen years later they found the kids who grabbed the single marshmallow tended to be more troubled as adolescents. The one-marshmallow kids also scored an average of 210 points less on SAT tests. Learning to delay gratification is important! (Guzik)*
- *Basic problem is a lack of knowledge.*
- *Jacob should have taught her to know the covenant and know the promise of God to them, to know who they are, who they serve and what is theirs by covenant.*
- *God is patient.*

Gen 34:2 When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force.

- *Shechem was a prince and may be accustomed to having his way. He sees this beautiful girl and wants her*
- *We do not have any details but that he defiled her. We do know from vs 26 that Dinah is in the Shechem's house or palace.*
- *Speculation - young 16-18 yr old country girl goes out to the city to see the world. A prince comes along and shows her attention and asks her to his house.*

Gen 34:3 He was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her.

Gen 34:4 So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young girl for a wife."

- *Shechem actually desired her for a wife not just to be used and tossed aside.*
- *He didn't love her with an agape love. It was a lesser love an Eros love which was where affection can be shown but it is a self serving love. What could he get out of this relationship. (he raped her, told his father to "get her for me", it was about the "me" and he is so quickly willing for himself and the men of the city to be circumcised to have her.)*

Gen 34:5 Now Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter; but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept silent until they came in."

- *Kept silent.*
- *When the leadership or head of the household did not act decisively with wisdom. This will always open the door for someone else to act with out wisdom.*

Gen 34:6 Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

- Gen 34:7 Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard {it;} and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.
- Gen 34:8 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage.
- Gen 34:9 "Intermarry with us; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves.
- Gen 34:10 "Thus you shall live with us, and the land shall be {open} before you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it."
- Gen 34:11 Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "If I find favor in your sight, then I will give whatever you say to me.
- *The negotiations were not going in Shechem's favor until he asked this.*
- Gen 34:12 "Ask me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give according as you say to me; but give me the girl in marriage."
- Gen 34:13 But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor with deceit, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. ."
- **2nd of 6 Problems Result in this Family – Deceit**
 - *Jacob's sons answered w/ deceit*
 - *They had already devised a plan. It was a plan to execute revenge upon Shechem and the whole city.*
 - *Basic problem is lack of humility.*
 - *Jacob should have humbly shared the accounts of his deceitful practices and taught his sons the results of practicing deceit.*
 - *God does not lie.*
- Gen 34:14 They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us.
- Gen 34:15 "Only on this {condition} will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you be circumcised,
- Gen 34:16 then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live with you and become one people.
- Gen 34:17 "But if you will not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go."
- **3rd of 6 Problems Result in this Family – Dishonoring the Sacred**
 - *The young prince was accepting of this deal, for he delighted in Dina*
 - *Simeon and Levi did not have a regard for circumcision to suggest this deceitfully.*
 - *They were hiding deceitfully behind spiritual words "I Call This the Judas Kiss"*
 - *The Pharisees to Jesus (questioning but trying to trap him)*
 - *Ananias and Sapphira (lying to Church/the Holy Spirit to look good before other Christians)*
 - *The third commandment "Thou shalt not take the Lord's name in vain" not just associating His name or title to a curse word, but taking his name or title and making it vain or worthless.*
 - *Basic problem is lack of appreciation.*
 - *Jacob should have imparted to his sons the value of the covenant and the representative sign in circumcision*
 - *Matt 7:6 "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."*
 - *God is Holy*
- Gen 34:18 Now their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.
- Gen 34:19 The young man did not delay to do the thing, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. Now he was more respected than all the household of his father. ."
- *The young prince was accepting of this deal, for he delighted in Dinah.*

- Gen 34:20 So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying,
- Gen 34:21 "These men are friendly with us; therefore let them live in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters in marriage, and give our daughters to them.
- Gen 34:22 "Only on this {condition} will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised.
- Gen 34:23 "Will not their livestock and their property and all their animals be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will live with us."
- Gen 34:24 All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and to his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. ."
- *This proves this Hamor and Shechem had authority of some sort.*
 - *"His city" again authority of city.*

Gen 34:25 **2) The Slaughter of Shechem and the City** vs 25-31

Now it came about on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came upon the city unawares, and killed every male.

- Gen 34:26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went forth. ."
- **4th of 6 Problems Result in this Family – Overreaction**
 - *Simeon and Levi accomplished the intent of their deceit. Slaughtering all the males in the city. They punished far more than the one man who defiled their sister. It is indefensible the*
 - *Cicero said "Let the punishment be proportionate to the offense." Anger is the source of overreaction. Control the anger and overreaction is controlled.*
 - *Jacob later spoke over them "Simeon and Levi are brothers; instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; let not my honor be united to their assembly; for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel. (Genesis 49:5-7)"*
 - *Basic problem is lack of trust.*
 - *Jacob should have testified of the hand of God who prospered him as he was wronged again and again by Laban. The sons should have been taught how God intervenes and avenges for his people.*
 - *God is longsuffering.*
- Gen 34:27 Jacob's sons came upon the slain and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister.
- **5th of 6 Problems Result in this Family – Injustice**
 - *Jacob's other sons came upon the scene and had vengeance in their heart also. Simeon and Levi did the killing but the other sons looted. These sons did not recognize the disproportionate punishment for the sin that was committed.*
 - *Still justifying their excess because of their sister.*
 - *Confucius "To go to far is as bad as to fall short" Jacob fell short. He did nothing. These sons looted after all the males were killed. All this over one mans sin.*
 - *Basic problem is lack of judgment.*
 - *Jacob should have*
 - *God is just.*
- Gen 34:28 They took their flocks and their herds and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field;

Gen 34:29 and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even all that {was} in the houses.

Gen 34:30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me odious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and my men being few in number, they will gather together against me and attack me and I will be destroyed, I and my household."

- **6th of 6 Problems Result in this Family – Selfish Concern**

- *His daughter is raped, two of his sons cheapen the sign of their covenant with God, lie, and slaughter all the males the in the city where they live, and their other sons rip off what is left. And Jacob is worried about how this is going to make him look.*
- *Basic problem is lack of discipline.*
- *Jacob should have trained these kids to walk uprightly. He should have focused on his role as a father who rules his house and trains up his children in the way they should go.*
- *God disciplines those he loves.*

Gen 34:31 But they said, "Should he treat our sister as a harlot?"

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