

**Dinah and the
Shechemites**

Genesis 34:1-31

Dinah and the Shechemites

Begin with prayer

Read: Genesis 34:1-31

Listen: THRU the BIBLE: [Genesis 34:1-31](#)

Dear God,

Guard us from acting in the energy of the flesh. When we are wronged, help us to trust Your justice rather than seize our own revenge. Give us the courage to lead with wisdom and the faith to leave vengeance in Your hands.

Amen



A Family Scandal



Genesis 34:1-31

One of the reasons God prompted Jacob to get his family out of Laban's house was the ungodly environment the children were exposed to there. Family trouble was not new to Jacob. We witnessed strife in Abraham's family as well as Isaac's. Jacob's family suffered trouble, especially with Leah's four sons. This may be because of fallout from multiple marriages or from the fact that Jacob didn't love Leah, and her children took lesser priority to Jacob. These four sons - Simeon and Levi in this story and Reuben, the firstborn, and Judah in the future - all turned out rather badly because of blatant sin in their lives.

When Jacob settled his family in Canaan, he hoped to get them reoriented to their home culture. One day, his daughter Dinah visited the local town. A man from town, the son of Hamor the Hivite, saw her and raped her. After the fact, this guilty young man wanted to marry her.

Dinah and the Shechemites

When her brothers found out, they held a counsel. Hamor, the father of this man, Shechem, came to ask for Dinah's hand for his son. He also wanted to propose that other marriages take place between their families so they would be one community (and Jacob's wealth would become theirs through inheritance).

As intermarriage would have been wrong according to God, Jacob should have stepped up to lead his sons. But he didn't know they planned to trick Shechem and Hamor.



“We can’t allow our sister to marry someone uncircumcised,” they said deceptively. (But nothing was mentioned of the crime against their sister.) Jacob’s sons posed the challenge. “If you’re willing to go through the rite of circumcision, everything will be all right.” (This is like saying if you join a church and use all the right words, then you are a Christian. But that’s not true. If you have trusted in Christ, something has happened, and you are a different person.)

So the men of Shechem and Hamor agreed to be circumcised. And while they were recovering from this delicate surgery, Dinah’s brothers, Simeon and Levi, went into town and killed all the men as an act of revenge. Then the other brothers joined them in stealing all the city’s livestock, wealth, and women and children.

When they came home, Jacob said, “You have spoiled my name among the people of my land.” He yelled at them for giving him a bad name, but says nothing about the sin they’ve committed. Jacob is growing, but he hasn’t yet grown far enough.

Then the boys defended themselves and their sister. “Somebody had to do something!” But obviously they took it too far.

Today we know God’s direction to let Him take vengeance rather than taking it for ourselves (see *Romans 12:19-21*). The minute we attempt to take revenge, it means we are no longer walking by faith. We are saying that we can’t trust God to work it out.

Reliance on Oneself Leads to Lifelong Regret

The tragic things that took place in this chapter of their lives were the result of Jacob walking in the energy of the flesh. At Peniel when he wrestled with God, Jacob learned not to trust himself but not yet how to trust God. He wasn’t a godly leader to his family and wasn’t equipped to herd his 11 sons. After this tragic event, Jacob now is beginning to see God’s hand in his life, and next he makes a decision he should have made a long time ago.



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Summary Table: The Jacob Transformation

Principle	Old Man (Jacob)	New Man (Israel)	NT Command
Status	Self-Sufficient	Unworthy / Mercy-bound	Luke 18:13-14
Method	Wrestling / Striving	Clinging / Yielding	2 Corinthians 12:9
Trust	Elaborate Backup Plans	Resting in the Word	1 Peter 5:7
Justice	Fleshly Vengeance	Trusting God’s Wrath	Romans 12:19

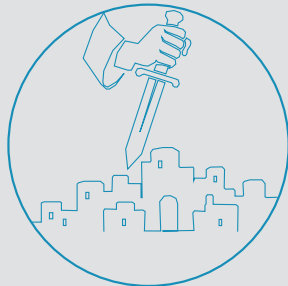


God's Eternal Truths

Relevant to us from *Genesis 34*

Truth: Walking in the flesh leads to tragedy, and vengeance belongs to God.

- **The Truth:** Jacob's sons took brutal revenge for the assault on their sister, using deception, their father's old method, to slaughter an entire city. But the New Testament makes it clear: we are to leave vengeance to God. The minute we attempt to take revenge, we are declaring that we cannot trust God to work it out, which shows we are no longer walking by faith.



- **New Testament Connection:**
Romans 12:19-21 "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the Lord... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
Galatians 5:16 "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."



Reflection Questions

Question 1

Flesh or Spirit: When someone wrongs you, is your first instinct to protect your testimony or to protect your ego? How does taking your own revenge reveal a lack of faith in God's justice?

Question 2

Leadership Gaps: Jacob failed to lead his sons in a moment of crisis, and the consequences were devastating. Are there areas in your family or relationships where you are avoiding difficult leadership because it is uncomfortable?

Question 3

Is there a "Simeon and Levi" moment in your life - a situation where you reacted in the flesh rather than the Spirit? Consider reaching out to offer a blessing or a kind word to someone who has wronged you, consciously leaving the repaying to the Lord.

Question 4

Jacob rebuked his sons for the damage to his reputation but was silent about the sin itself. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you may be more concerned with how things look than with what is actually right.



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