

3 STEPS FORWARD 2 STEPS BACK ~ Genesis 34:1-31

→ Scripture Reading Genesis 34:1-5

I WANT HER ~ Genesis 34:1-5

[1] Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the women of the land. [2] When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the ruler of that area, saw her, he TOOK her and violated her. [3] His heart was drawn to Dinah daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her. [4] And Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Get me this girl as my wife." [5] When Jacob heard that his daughter Dinah had been defiled, his sons were in the fields with his livestock; so he KEPT QUIET about it until they came home.

→Map

SEEKING MARRIAGE CONTRACT ~ Genesis 34:6-12

[6] Then Shechem's father Hamor went out to talk with Jacob. [7] Now Jacob's sons had come in from the fields as soon as they heard what had happened. They were filled with grief and fury, because Shechem had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter - a thing that should not be done. [8] But Hamor said to them, "My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife. [9] Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for yourselves. [10] You can settle among us; the land is open to you. Live in it, trade in it, and ACQUIRE PROPERTY in it."

PROPOSAL...

- INTERMARRY with us
- Settle AMONG us
- Live HERE
- TRADE here
- OWN Land

DECEITFUL PLAN ~ Genesis 34:13-24

[13] Because their sister Dinah had been defiled, Jacob's sons replied deceitfully as they spoke to Shechem and his father Hamor. [14] They said to them, "We can't do such a thing; we can't give our sister to a man who is not circumcised. That would be a disgrace to us. [15] We will give our consent to you on one condition only: that you become like us by circumcising all your males. [16] Then we will give you our daughters and take your daughters for ourselves. we'll SETTLE AMONG you and become one people with you. [17] But if you will not agree to be circumcised, we'll take our sister and go. ... [23] Won't their livestock, their property and all their other animals become ours? So let us give our consent to them, and they will settle among us." [24] All the men who went out of the city gate agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male in the city was circumcised.

ADVANTAGES

- there is plenty of ROOM
- alliance through MARRIAGE
- increase their MILITARY strength
- expect to ABSORB ALL Jacobs wealth

REVENGE, RESCUE, AND PLUNDER ~ Genesis 34:25-31

[25] Three days later, while all of them were still in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, TOOK their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. [26] They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem's house and left. [27] The sons of Jacob came upon the dead bodies and looted the city where their sister had been defiled. [28] THEY SEIZED their flocks and herds and donkeys and everything else of theirs in the city and out in the fields. [29] They CARRIED OFF ALL their wealth and all their women and children, taking as plunder everything in the houses.

Jacob's TOTAL indifference to Dinah - and his lack of action - prompted the VIOLENT overreaction of her brothers. Constable

[30] Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought TROUBLE on ME by making ME a stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces against ME and attack ME, I and MY household will be destroyed." [31] But they replied, "Should he have treated OUR SISTER like a prostitute?"

Jacob does not seem worried by his daughter's rape or the prospect of intermarriage with the Canaanites. He is only concerned about his own safety. Constable

Shechem had treated Dinah like a prostitute offering to pay for her - by being willing accept payment Jacob was treating her in the same way. DA Carson

WHY IS THIS RECORDED FOR US?

- It Explains why Jacob did NOT BLESS Levi and Simeon
- To Show the Importance of SEPARATION from the Canaanites

Deut. 7:3-4 (NIV) Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, [4] for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

- Gives the REASON for the Return to Bethel
- It Shows God is SOVEREIGN over ALL that happens
- Explains the HATRED of Joseph's brother toward him

APPLICATION

Hebrews 11:21 (NIV) By FAITH Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

Philippians 1:6 (ESV) And I am sure of this, that HE who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

The PROMISE is that God will NEVER STOP working in OUR lives

We do not become more victorious by conquering the enemy. We become victorious through SURRENDERING to Jesus. We do not become victorious by our independence from the enemy. We become victorious by DEPENDENCE on God. Moore

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

THAT IS THE CHALLENGE FOR US

- daily SURRENDER (staying ON the Altar)
- daily DEPENDENCE (joining Jesus IN the Yoke)

TAKE AWAY ??

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 (NIV) These things happened to them AS EXAMPLES and were written down as WARNINGS FOR US, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. [12] So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! [13] No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is FAITHFUL; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

There for me the Savior stands,
Shows His wounds and spreads His hands.
God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

I have long withstood His grace,
Long provoked him to His face,
Would not hearken to His calls,

Grieved Him by a thousand falls.

Now Lord help me to repent,
Let me now my sins lament,
Now my foul revolt deplore,
Weep, believe, and sin no more.

C. Wesle