



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: Biblical Beginnings

Message: “Merging with the World”

Text: Genesis 34:1-31

DATE: July 25, 2021

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

Genesis 34:1-31, Joshua 24:32 (Purchased land), Genesis 49:5-7, Acts 7:16 (Land),

Romans 12:19, Exodus 14:14, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 (Mourn & Sorrow over Sin), 2

Samuel 13:1-3, Proverbs 6:32-35 (Vengeance over Sexual sins), 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[Genesis 34:1-31]

“Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. ² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. ³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this girl for my wife.”

⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. ⁶ And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. ⁷ The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

⁸ But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife. ⁹ Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. ¹⁰ You shall dwell with us, and

the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it.”¹¹ Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give.”¹² Ask me for as great a bride-price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife.”

¹³ The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. 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.”¹⁵ Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. ¹⁶ Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. ¹⁷ But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone.”

¹⁸ Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor’s son Shechem. ¹⁹ And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father’s house. ²⁰ So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, ²¹ “These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters.”²² Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people—when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. ²³ Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us.”²⁴ And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

²⁵ On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house and went away. ²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household.”³¹ But they said, “Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?”

“The ground on which they declined a matrimonial alliance with Shechem was good; their sin lay in advancing this simply as a pretext to enable them to wreak their unholy vengeance on Shechem and his innocent people

-H. D. M. Spence-Jones

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[DEFILED] ^{TM'}= To become ceremonially unclean; defile; desecrate

[BRIDE PRICE] Money, service, or goods given to the family of the bride as compensation for the loss of her work for her family

[HAMOR] Chieftain of the Hivites who were in control of Shechem a city on top of mount Gerizim

[CHIEFTAIN] The head of a tribe or clan (Hamor is Chieftain of the Shechemites)

[CANAANITE COSTUMES] Sexual promiscuity was part of the culture in Shechem and even part of the religious culture (common occurrence). If a female was single she would be considered free game.

OUTLINE:

I. (v1-4) COMMON OCCURRENCE

- A. (v1) *“Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, **went out to see the women of the land.**”*
 1. Possible socializing with the women of Shechem
 - a) *Factor: Dinah was the only girl in the home so she desired female companions*
 - b) *Jacob had his family living close to the worldly city for 10+ years (Dangerous gamble)*

c) *It would have been impossible for the family to marry among their own as there was not enough family to accomplish (destined to fail to live in this place)*

B. (v2) *“**2** And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, **he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her.**”*

1. This is an act of
 - a) *Outright Rape*
 - b) *Or Statutory Rape (Consensual with an underaged girl)*
2. Dinah was a teenager

C. (v3) *“**3** And **his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her.**”*

1. Shechem had actual feelings for Dinah
2. Shechem sought to console her about all that had happened
 - a) *Promising marriage corrects the wrong?*
 - b) *Promising to care for her and meet her needs?*
3. The way physical and chemical bonds due to the act of sexual relations (humans are designed by God to bond in Sexual relationship this is why God designed it for marriage)

D. (v4) *“**4** So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, **“Get me this girl for my wife.”**”*

1. Shechem is only focused on getting what he wanted
2. Shechem seeks his fathers help in dealing with Jacob (fearful of Jacob)
 - a) *Fear is a good indicator of knowing you have done wrong*

II. (v5-17) SECULAR SEDUCTION

A. (v5) *“**5** Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so **Jacob held his peace until they came.**”*

1. Jacob keeping silent illustrates his grief over this grave sin
2. To bring the sin of the flesh against Jacob’s daughter was to bring shame against God himself as Jacob represented God
 - a) *God changed Jacob’s name to Israel to represent a nation and God’s people.*
3. Jacob needed the counsel of his sons

B. (v6-7) *“**6** And **Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.** **7** **The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, for such a thing must not be done.**”*

1. Hamor the Chieftain and Jacob’s sons arrive about the same time
2. Hamor desires to speak to Jacob to negotiate

3. Jacob's sons were so angry they seem to want payment for the sin
 - a) *The level of sin that caused this anger in Jacob's sons is not sin on their part at first*
 - (1) We should all be angry and appalled at sin as it makes God angry as well (righteous anger)

C. (v8-10) ⁸ *But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. **Please give her to him to be his wife.** ⁹ Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. ¹⁰ You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. **Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it.**"*

1. The one-act is now an open door for further sins against God
 - a) *How we respond to sinful acts can prevent further failure and deeper grieving of our God*
2. Hamor offers up more marriages than just Dinah and Shechem (Israeli marriages with Canaanites was not God's desire)
 - a) *(Diluting of the people of God) When God's people begin to intermarry with unbelievers there will be a loss of faith amongst the people of God*
3. Hamor saw no problem with the act of Seduction but rather sought to gloss over and take advantage of the moment
 - a) *The world will not have a problem with sins against God because He is not their God*
4. Hamor offers up unlimited access to their land and to even own land
 - a) *The world offers up many gifts to just overlook the sins*
 - b) *Minimizing sins gives way to desensitization and acceptance of new lifestyles*
 - (1) Examples: Homosexuality is no longer wrong just an alternate lifestyle and now sinful to not accept it as equal to God's design for marriage

D. (v11-12) ¹¹ *Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and **whatever you say to me I will give.** ¹² **Ask me for as great a bride-price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife."***

1. The world wants our children
2. The world wants our children to be their children (abandoning God)
3. The world is paying a high price to get our children (but they want them bad)

a) *Sometimes the world wants our kids more than we want to protect them from the world*

E. (v13-14) ¹³ *The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. 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.*

1. Followers of Christ must stand boldly against what makes the Lord angry

a) *This does not mean we stand for our own personal convictions with godly passion, but rather for Biblical truth alone*

b) *We cannot surrender truth for the world’s promises*

F. (v15-17) ¹⁵ *Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by **every male among you being circumcised.** ¹⁶ Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and **become one people.** ¹⁷ *But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone.”**

1. Jacob’s Sons decided to begin a plan to right the wrong in their own strength

a) *Our fight must not be in our own strength*

b) *Our fight must not be as sinful as the offense*

c) *We must leave God alone as the sole judge and not take matters into our own hands*

d) *We must acknowledge our part in making way for sin*

(1) Being where we make our families vulnerable

(2) Not giving clear boundaries

(3) Not keeping the things of God highest priority at points

III. (v18-24) COUNTER CORRECTION

A. (v18-19) ¹⁸ *Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor’s son Shechem. ¹⁹ And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. **Now he was the most honored of all his father’s house.***

1. The world honors those who sin

2. The world honors those who attack God through actions that go against His word and His people

3. Shechem is praised for getting Jacob’s family to concede to them

B. (v20-22) ²⁰ *So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and **spoke to the men of their city,** saying, ²¹ “These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters. ²²*

Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people—when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised.

1. This is a religious symbol (outward symbol/not inward heart commitment to God)
2. How many times do we accept the world's ways if they will also accept our religion?
3. How many times do we want the world to act like Christians when they still hate our God?
4. How many times do we make religion the final outcome or mission versus the sharing of the gospel of Christ?

C. (v23-24) ²³ ***Will not their livestock, their property, and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us.*** ²⁴ ***And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.***

1. The truth comes out in Hamor's description of the agreements
 - a) They would own God's possessions as well as the Followers of God having access to theirs
 - (1) There is always a get out of world's negotiations
 - (2) The get here was not just Dinah but rather a wholesale surrender of God's gifts/blessings to the world
2. The men of Shechem were all circumcised as agreed upon with no thought to the symbolism

IV. (v25-31) BROTHERLY BEATDOWN

A. (v25-26) ²⁵ ***On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males.*** ²⁶ ***They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away.***

1. Simeon and Levi knew when the males would be the most sore (the third day)
2. Simeon and Levi both took matters into their hands and killed all the men of Shechem for the sin of Shechem the prince
3. They took Dinah away from Shechem's house having seen the bloodshed
 - a) *Our children and families are affected by the sin and the response of vengeance*
4. Should they have allowed God to take vengeance into His Just hands- Yes (Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 12:19)

B. (v27-29) ²⁷ **The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister.** ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ **All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.**

1. When Simeon & Levi became angry their flesh sought to right the wrong done to their family by their own means and own justice
 - a) *Was justice God's measure?*
2. Jacob had missed opportunity in his grieving to protect the family from overcorrection and acting out of bitterness (was not righteous anger but rather fleshly)

C. (v30-31) ³⁰ **Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household."** ³¹ **But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"**

1. Jacob missed his moment and now he has two messes to clean up
 - a) *When parents miss opportunities the responses to sin can be just as sinful*
 - b) *Our responses to the world must leave room for our witness of a God who came to seek and save the lost as well as a display of His Justice (God of balance)*
2. Simeon and Levi was right in the fact that a response was necessary
3. Jacob had missed the moment to seek the Lord's guidance and direct his son's in their anger

"[Jacob] having indulged his children in their youth, he was now afraid to reprove them..."

-Inglis

Meditation Moment:

- Have you made a commitment to stand with Jesus as an individual?
- Have you left your family vulnerable and in close association with the world?
- Have we been exposed to the sins of the world against our family and had a knee-jerk reaction that was equally as sinful?
- Is it too late to make the adjustments to direct and protect your family?
- Are you willing today to make adjustments that keep a relationship with God as the greatest need?

