

Genesis: God and Man

Our Sister

Genesis 34

God & Man...

- Adam and Even
- Cain and Abel
- Noah
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Esau
- Dinah and her brothers

Previously

- Jacob has many sons but only one daughter, through Leah
- Flees Laban, reunites with Esau, but he wasn't honest with Esau and he doesn't go all the way to where God wants him to go
- City of Shechem

If we haven't gone all the way with God spiritually we won't go all the way physically

It not only affects us, but those around us, especially our children

Backsliding, stopping short, warming ourselves by the fires of the world...all have an unseen impact, until one day, it is seen and it is very real.

Today: Sometimes we have to go over, think about, talk about things because the scripture leads us to them. Not always pleasant or easy. But it is there for a reason.

If one were writing a family history for one's own sake, one might have left this part out

Pray

1-5

Dinah "judgment"

Introduced here as the daughter of Leah

Where was Leah in all of this? Dinah's age is unknown, but estimated to be about 10-15.

The customs of the land, the morals and values of these people were far different than the morals God had for his people.

1Jo 2:15-17 NKJV - 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. 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. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Dinah wanted to go and do and see and be around the girls of the world. The girls of the city of Shechem

What were they doing? What were they watching? What were they wearing?

Had her parents not instructed her the right, moral ways? Had they not taught her her value?

1Pe 3:3-4 KJV - Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

But Dinah, perhaps a teenager, perhaps younger (even more disturbing of a story), went out

In this day and age, we need to protect our children at all costs. Tell them who they are in Jesus. Tell them how valuable they are and show them (in a proper way) how wicked the world is and what the end of those sinful ways are: death. Because their curiosity, their desire will lead them if we don't lead them. And the things that are so quickly available and acceptable today are so quickly destructive in their lives and may even cost them their lives. It's not like when I grew up, or when my parents did...it's far, far more wicked.

Dinah goes out with her worldly friends, in the city, unsupervised, alone

V2 the prince saw her, took her, raped her

Was this at a club? Was this just in the street? Was she at a party and met him?

I don't know how the interaction looked like on the surface, but at it's heart, that's what it was.

This is the worldly way of meeting people: put yourself out there in a desirous way that someone might desire you and take you. Consent is the world's moral. If you say it's OK, it's OK. however, the lasting damage on your life and soul is there whether consent was there or not.

But for poor, little, sweet, unprotected Dinah...this was a horrible experience. One she did not want and didn't deserve.

Although her parents didn't lead her, didn't protect her. Although her mom didn't give her the right example...it doesn't say she snuck out...her dad wasn't there to ground her or instruct her...

And although she went to a bad place and was with bad people...she didn't deserve what happened to her.

Could it have been avoided? Absolutely. Did she put herself in a bad situation? Yes. But the onus is with Schechem.

The backwardness of his union to her

Supposed to love, be kind, care for, get married and be one
Not take and rape and then love

The king gets what the king wants

We wonder why the world is in such trouble...we don't limit our desires and so they rule over us, hurt others and destroy our society

Shechem was obsessed with her. Perhaps he even did truly think he loved her afterward. He definitely lusted for her. His dad was to arrange the wedding.

There's so much wrong here it's impossible to unpack in time.

But Jacob holds his peace because he sons are in the field. He's not man enough to stand up for his daughter when he's outnumbered. Did he hear because Dinah came home in an awful state?

6-10

Hamor comes out to speak with Jacob

Again, the father dealing for his son instead of the son being a man...even though he's the ruler of the city.

A real problem with manhood in this culture.

Sons angry because of the disgrace done in Israel

This was the promised land, their family was the young nation, and their jewel of a daughter was robbed

Grieved and very angry

The right response

This was their sister

And that a great wrong had been done

Moral outrage.

Everything will be ok! My son loves your sister.

Let's be one together. Your family, our family. We'll intermarry.

Daughters as a bargaining chip for societal, personal and political gain

How foreign! Do we not trade our children for more wealth and personal gain today?

Who raises them? Us? Daycare? TV? The school? Who imposes the morals? Sex "education?"

Who protects them?

It doesn't take a village... it takes a family.

Let me find favor...whatever you say, I will give

As if any money could ever repay for this wrong...it shows how little value Hamor places on them, their daughter, and women in general. How morally blind they are.

But these brothers love their sister truly. I always tell my kids to love each other, watch out for each other, protect each other.

Pro 6:34-35 KJV - For jealousy [is] the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

Dwell here, It'll be your land, you'll get rich here, too! All at the cost of your sister's life and dignity and worth.

11-18

Shechem himself steps up and says the same thing

It obviously wasn't going over well with the brothers

Whatever it is, I just want to marry her.

In some twisted way, there is a morality there...he does want to marry her. It's not like he just used her and abused her...although he did do just that. The "love" the "marriage" doesn't make up for it.

They spoke deceitfully because he had defiled their sister

These were no dumb guys. They were going to exact revenge and do it in the smartest way possible.

But again, we see deceit...Jacob, the deceiver's sons, didn't fall far from the family tree. And in this time of crisis, they turn back to their flesh to handle it.

They use the truth...it would be a reproach to them to marry the uncircumcised

But the real problem is what was done to their sister was the reproach

We'll become one people...

19-24

Shechem was quick to do it He really wanted to marry her.
He was more honorable than the rest.

Even though he was a rapist (I don't know how old he was, so perhaps he was young as well) To say he was more honorable than his family shows how depraved his people were. That even this rapist had some sort of honor.

And you know, this is how he was raised...he still made his own choice, don't get me wrong, but he certainly didn't get any moral guidance from his family or culture.

We've got enough room to let them stay

Let's just do this one quick painful thing and guess what, in the end, we'll end up owning all their stuff anyway.

It'll pay off for us, not them.

Pro 1:10-12, 14-19 KJV - My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: ... Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to

shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their [own] blood; they lurk privily for their [own] lives. So [are] the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; [which] taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Everyone circumcised...ouch. They did the fleshly deed but didn't have a spiritual reason to. They were never told the spiritual reason for doing it.

25-29

Third day...when they were in pain (no doubt!)

Simeon and Levi (second and third oldest) Where's Reuben in all of this?

They took Dinah back...do you think she wanted to be there? At least she probably wasn't raped any more because of the circumcisions

AIM rescue missions

City plundered. All their wealth became Jacob's wealth. Because their sister had been defiled. They did this for their sister. They would take everything of life and value from the entire city because everything of value was taken from their sister.

The importance of honor. Of family.

Would it make up for it? No? But there is something to be said about swift justice.
All of the men of the city, in some sense, were involved in it, but this is overkill perhaps.

They took all the families captive...their revenge is going way beyond.

Deu 32:35 NKJV - Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in [due] time; For the day of their calamity [is] at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'

30-31

Who is Jacob most worried about now? Himself.

He's worried that all the neighboring nations will be afraid of them and come wipe them out for what they did to Shechem.

**The story ends with the brother's last words:
Should he treat our sister like a harlot?**

Does that make it OK? Should our fear of other people mean that we let them do these awful things to our sister?

It's a hard topic. A hard question.

The problem in the family began long before Dinah went out.

But now that it did happen...they couldn't let it just happen.

OJ civil trial...

Was there any real justice here? Yes. Her attacker would no longer walk the earth and hurt her. But was the revenge overkill? Yes. what would have happened after that?

Well, they probably would have gone to Bethel earlier knowing they couldn't stay there.

Stopping short spiritually lights a giant fuse for a spiritual bomb to go off.

Don't stop short.

Don't give in.

Don't blend in.

Don't be afraid to defend your family from the very beginning. The world wants nothing more than to take every advantage of our children and use them and abuse them.

We must lead them in the right way before they get led off like lambs to the slaughter.

And so help me if anyone harms my children like Dinah was harmed that day. I won't leave her justice in the hands of her brothers.