

## Genesis Chapter Thirty Four

### Genesis 34:1-4

**Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force. And he was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her. So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young girl for a wife."**

- Though Jacob had been summoned to Bethel, he settles in a place of trade—Shechem
- Hamor=an ass
- Dinah=judgment
- Shechem=shoulder
- By force—implies a willful taking rather than mutual consent
- Among the heathen—this is not an unusual approach for appropriating a wife
- Spoke tenderly—tries to win affection after violation
- Rape—not always initiated for the same reasons

### Genesis 34:5-12

**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. Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. 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. But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. And intermarry with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. Thus you shall live with us, and the land shall be open before you; live and trade in it, and acquire property in it." 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. 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."**

- Passage of time—not immediate action taken—Jacob keeps silent and waits
- Disgraceful=senseless; foolish—an outrage

- Shechem's response—not remorseful as much as it is determined grasping
- To intermarry—Israel would be regarded as citizens instead of sojourners
- Bridal payment—amount due the family for the release of the girl. Jacob is familiar with paying a steep bride price.
- On Shechem's part—issue can be resolved with enough money
- This is an issue of honor—to this day in the middle east we see honor killings for moral breaches.
- Shechem is proposing an alliance that would have compromised Israel with Canaanites for future generations.
- Anger is often a way men display grief.

### **Genesis 34:13-18**

**But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor, with deceit, and spoke to them, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. And 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. Only on this condition will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you be circumcised, 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. But if you will not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go." But their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.**

- Negotiations are with Jacob and sons—but sons speak with deception—they have already formulated their revenge.
- They take a sign of covenant with a Holy God—use it for their own means. How often do we handle the things of God in such a way as to compromise them to a watching world?
- Outward signs are to reflect a heart condition that would be uncompromised.
- Women are described throughout chapter as though mere property

### **Genesis 34:19-23**

**And 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. So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city, and spoke to the men of their city, saying, "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. 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. 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."**

- Shechem / Hamor regard such an alliance as absorption of a powerful family—along with their property—into the life of Shechem.
- Seen as an opportunity for acquisition rather than loss
- Hamor / Shechem saw the proposed alliance as a sign of friendliness
- Jacob and sons are already settled on property they have purchased near the city

### **Genesis 34:24-31**

**And 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. 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. And they killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went forth. Jacob's sons came upon the slain and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks and their herds and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field; and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even all that was in the houses. 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 shall be destroyed, I and my household." But they said, "Should he treat our sister as a harlot?"**

- Jacob seems more concerned with peace than honor
- Gate—place of public business
- Circumcision—crudely performed—incapacitating after 3 days
- Simeon and Levi—some of the elder sons of Leah—act as the executioners for the entire male population. Younger sons join in the looting.
- Jacob's disgust over this incident is never forgotten—spoken of at his death bed—Gen 49:5
- These two brothers felt like their sister—being defiled—required revenge
- This event depicts Simeon and Levi as headstrong—acting in revenge. They seem oblivious to future consequences.

# Genesis Chapter Thirty Four Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Read II Samuel 22:48

## Dig:

- 1) List the sins committed by Shechem / Hamor in this story.
- 2) List the sins of Jacob and sons in this chapter.
- 3) What benefit of associating with the Canaanites had Jacob experienced to this point? What further benefit did Shechem and Hamor offer Jacob and sons?
- 4) How familiar was Jacob with a possible 'bride price'?
- 5) What did Jacob's family plunder from Shechem?
- 6) Who seems most disturbed about the rape of Dinah?
- 7) How does Hamor justify the disgrace of his son?

**Discuss:**

- 1) How does this story relate to the current treatment of women in the world?
- 2) Are you aware of any attitudes toward women—in the world—that are contrary to the ways of Jesus?
- 3) Are there any attitudes toward women, in the church, that are more like the world—than they are like Jesus?

**Point of Prayer:**

Pray—as an act of intercession—for the amount of human trafficking still taking place in the world

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Have you ever been angry and acted with revenge?
- 2) Is revenge or retaliation ever appropriate as an individual? As a nation?
- 3) Should believers ever intermarry with non believers? What would you tell your children if they were pursuing such a relationship?
- 4) Have you ever compromised your faith for the sake of a friendship? For the sake of a job? For the sake of money?
- 5) What kinds of behavior are regarded as a 'disgrace' within your family?
- 6) What 'disgraces' are taking place in your city?