

The Fruit of Jacob's Worldliness
07-31-2016

Gen 34:1-7

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.

Gen 34 is the only chapter in the Bible, besides the book of Esther where the name of God is not mentioned.

- In Esther we see the fingerprints of God but in Gen 34 it does not mention God's name or influence.
- Gen 34 is a testimony of the Bible's truthfulness & a warning of disobedience & worldliness as well as a confirmation of salvation by grace alone not works.

Jacob was inside Canaan but not in Bethel where God told him to go.

- Instead he settled in the pagan city of Succoth; this was eventually in city of Shechem...just like Lot! 33:15-17, Rom 12:2, 1 Thes 5:3, 6, 1 Pet 5:8
 - Satan subtly seduces with worldliness that leads to complacency, spiritual dullness, unbelief, apathy, carnality, or compromise.
 - Desire to live by goals, values, activities of the world.

Like previously, lying & disobedience brought pain/loss into Jacob's life.

- Reproach to God: Esau, "Jacob hasn't changed, he's still a liar/supplanter".
- He never saw his father again, and it was 27 yrs before Jacob and Esau were together and it was at their father's funeral.

Jacob's 8-10 yrs of disobedience & worldliness culminated in an avalanche of sin that forever impacted his family & destroyed an entire town. 34:1-7

- It appears that Dinah was around the age of 13-15 and hung out with the pagan Canaanites behind her parents' back.
 - Teens: obey parents. Parents: parent & trust God.

Dinah was raped and a proposal for marriage was given. This was meant to be both a marital business/social treaty.

- Jacob passively allowed them to inter-marry with the Canaanites....contrary to the purposes in the Abrahamic covenant & a direct violation of his father's instructions. Gen 28:1-4
 - To marry an unbeliever is still sinful! 2 Cor 6:14-16
- Jacob neither stood up for his daughter or his God!

The brothers express a righteous indignation but sinfully exacted revenge. 34:24-31

- The murdered all the men, looted the city, and imprisoned the women and children.
 - Jacob's sons played the religion card & used God's covenant sign (circumcision) to deceive & send the lost to a godless eternity!
- Jacob had become so worldly that he has more concern about his own welfare & reputation than the horrendous rape, blasphemy, treachery, and massacre; his fault in it all.
 - Yet Jacob was still the Lord's man...grace not works.

We need to fight assimilation with the world, especially in times of prosperity & peace. 1 Jn 2:15-17, Jam 4:7, 1 Tim 6:10-12, 1 Cor. 15:33, Rom. 16:19,

- Commit yourself to Biblical separation not isolation.
 - Separation from worldly: self-centered goals, unbiblical values, untrue beliefs, sinful activities that may even be encouraged/praised in media/TV.
 - We often justify sins like pride, envy, anger, deception, immorality, selfishness & put-downs.
- We need to flee and fight worldliness & pursue and embrace godliness.
 - Read/memorize God's Word to shape thinking/attitudes, not evil world.
 - Some say they don't have time to read the Bible for 5 minutes, but can watch TV for 3 hours?

Our purpose is not to judge the world or join with the world in sin but to represent our Savior.

- It is Jesus who enables Christians to do this. Phil 4:13