

Violated In Shechem

Genesis 34:1-31

Introduction

I The Violation Of Dinah

- A. She **visited** the women of Shechem
- B. She was **violated** by Shechem - 2 Sam 11:2-3; 2 Cor 10:5
- C. She was "**loved**" by Shechem - 1 Cor 13:4-7
 - 1. His heart was drawn to Dinah
 - 2. He loved her and spoke tenderly to her
 - 3. He asked his father to get her for his wife - Judg 14:1-2

II The Reaction Of The Families

- A. The family of Dinah
 - 1. Jacob's response: **Passivity**
 - 2. Her brothers' response: Grief and **fury** - James 1:19-20
- B. The family of Shechem
 - 1. The offer of Hamor
 - a. He **requested** Dinah for his son
 - b. He offered intermarriage - Deut 7:3-5; 2 Cor 6:14-15
 - c. He offered them **land** and opportunity - 1 Jn 2:15-17
 - 2. The offer of Shechem
 - a. He requested Jacob's favor
 - b. He wanted Dinah at any **price**

III The Plans For Revenge Are Laid

- A. Jacob's sons replied **deceitfully** - Lk 6:40
 - 1. The people of Shechem must be circumcised - Gen 17:10
- B. Hamor and Shechem **agreed** to be circumcised
 - 1. The proposal seemed good to them
 - a. Shechem was the most **honored** in his father's house
 - 2. They went to the gate of the city to present the deal
- C. The men of the city agreed to be circumcised - 1 Tim 6:9-10

IV The Deadly Trap Closes

- A. Simeon and Levi **killed** every male - Prov 4:14-17
- B. They rescued Dinah
- C. They **looted** the city and took the women and children

- D. They were **rebuked** by Jacob
 - 1. "You have brought trouble on me" - 1 Kings 18:18
 - 2. "You have made me a stench" - Ex 5:21
 - 3. "You have put our family at risk" - Is 41:10
- E. They were **offended** by their father Jacob - Gen 49:5-7

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. When injustice strikes you or your family, how do you tend to respond? Passively? Or with a "scorched earth" approach?
2. What disturbs you most about this story? The rape of Dinah? The passivity of Jacob? His sons' deceit? Or the savage, disproportionate methods of revenge? Why?
3. God's name is not mentioned in this sordid chapter. Why do you think that is the case? Where was God when all of these awful things were taking place? Where is God today when tragedy strikes and when evil seems to prevail?
4. What is the main concern of Shechem in this story? Of Hamor? Of Jacob? Of Jacob's sons? Of the people of Shechem? How do their respective objectives adversely impair their ability to address the rape of Dinah in a biblical manner and to help her deal with the physical, emotional, and spiritual fallout?
5. Jacob chose material blessings over spiritual blessings by living in Shechem when he chose to disobey God's command to live in Bethel. Is there an area in your life where you have chosen to compromise God's call in order to enjoy the material blessings of this world? At what cost? What should you do?
6. What you should do if you have suffered injustice in this life:
 - a. Don't take things into your own hands - Rom 12:17-21
 - b. Confront the sin biblically - Matt 18:15-17
 - c. Report criminal matters to the authorities - Rom 13:1-5
 - d. Entrust yourself to God who judges justly - 1 Pet 2:19-23

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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