

GENESIS 33-34

REVIEW...

- **CHAPTERS 31 – GOING HOME**
 - Jacob decided it was time to return back to his home (*out of favor with Laban*)
 - God had prepared the heart of Rachel and Leah to go...
 - Therefore - one day when Laban was not looking – they took off running!
 - When Laban caught up with Jacob – he meant to do him harm...
 - But God intervened and warned Laban not to touch him...
 - They made a vow – Mizpah – not to come near or harm each other!
- **CHAPTERS 32 – A ROCK AND THE HARD PLACE**
 - Jacob could not to back to Laban – there was no going back to Padan-Aram...
 - Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men – he had no place to run...
 - He went to the Lord in prayer – then took matters into his own hands!
 - Jacob sent waves of gifts at Esau (*and his 400 men*) hoping to appease him...
 - Then he went to spend a night alone on the far side of the river – and wrestled with God!
 - THE MAN – Jesus – fought with Jacob till morning....
 - Jacob would not give up – but seeing he could not win – he asked for a blessing...
 - THE MAN gave Jacob a new name – Israel – Governed by God!

WRATH OF MAN... (5 POINTS)

- **1ST - NO MORE FEAR... VS. 1-4**
 - 1ST - Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with 400 men... vs. 1-3
 - Understandably Jacob was still uncertain of the intentions of his brother...
 - Coming out to meet him – his 4 wives – 11 sons – was an ARMY!
 - Therefore Jacob lined up his family – perhaps in order of priority...
 - FIRST – the maidservants and kids – THEN Leah and her kids – FINALLY Rachel and Joseph...
 - But Jacob went out in FRONT before them all – to meet Esau first!
 - Jacob had been AFRIAD of what ESAU might do with a 400 man army...
 - But now he no longer had any FEAR – because he knew who stood with him!
 - **We FEAR what we do not KNOW – and we usually assume the worst!**
 - **And if we are depending on ourselves – we have good reason to be AFRAID!**
 - **Yet Jesus does KNOW – nothing is a surprise to Him – He sees it all – Hebrews 4:13**
 - **IF we are looking to Jesus – we therefore have NOTHING to FEAR...**
 - **FEAR is the opposite of trust– we are AFRAID because we are not looking to God!**
 - **II Timothy 1:7 – “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound mind.”**
 - 2ND - The result of having no FEAR... vs. 4
 - God changed hearts...
 - Esau embraced (*piel*) his estranged brother – kissed him – and wept!
 - Whether Esau ever had hostile intentions (*400 men*) or not we are not told...
 - We do know by the time he met his brother – whom he had wanted to kill – **Genesis 27:41**
 - He now INTENSELY embraced him – and rejoiced to see him again!
 - **What we forget is - when God is for us who can be against us – Romans 8:31**
 - **God can turn even those who might want to harm us – into good friends...**
 - **If only we will learn to TRUST in Jesus – rather than to give into our FEARS!**
 - God RESTORED...

- I am sure Jacob believed the relationship with Esau was hopeless...
- It turned out his problem was not with Esau – it was with God...
- Jacob had not been battling Esau – he had been wrestling his whole life with the Lord!
- Once Jacob surrendered to God – it HEALED his friendship with Esau!
- If we have bitterness towards someone / a broken relationship...
- It speaks of a battle in our heart – not with that person – but with the Lord!
- Because we CANNOT love God – and have hatred towards our brother – **I John 4:20**
- Considering how much we have been forgiven - how could we not forgive...
 - Jesus went to the cross to pay for our sins - ALL of our sins...
 - He was willing to forgive everything we ever have done - or will ever do!
 - How then could we not forgive someone for the little sin they have done against us...
 - If we are unwilling to forgive - then God will not forgive us - **Matthew 6:15**
- When we are hurt by someone - and refuse to forgive...
 - It will grow into bitterness - we become consumed with what they did...
 - With un-forgiveness in our hearts - God does not hear our prayers - **Mark 11:25**
 - Forgiveness is not just for the one who did us wrong - it is also for us...
 - It sets us free - we do not dwell on the past - we get to move forward in Jesus!
- **2ND - NO MORE NEED... VS. 5-11**
 - 1st - Jacob introduced his family to Esau – then got asked about all the gifts...
 - Jacob had sent waves of animals to appease Esau the day before – **Genesis 32:13-20**
 - Esau refused the gifts – he had also been blessed – had MORE than enough...
 - Yet Jacob was overwhelmed to be greeting with love by his brother...
 - He insisted that Esau keep the gifts!
 - 2nd - A glimpse at the change that occurred in the heart of Israel!
 - Jacob had schemed and scraped for everything he had – now he was giving it away...
 - Things were no longer so important – it was about being thankful to Jesus!
 - When we get our FOCUS on the Lord – not only do FEARS melt away...
 - Our priorities change – we no longer look for more – we are CONTENT with what we have...
 - In Jesus we are thankful we have all we NEED for today – trusting Him for tomorrow!
 - **Philippians 4:19** – “God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
- **3RD - FINDING WHERE WE BELONG... VS. 12-20**
 - 1st – Esau wanted to accompany Jacob back home...
 - Let us take a journey (*cohortative*) – let us go (*cohortative*) ...
 - The COHORTATIVE adds emphasis – Esau REALLY wanted Jacob to go with him!
 - But Jacob countered – I have the kids – and newly born flocks...
 - They move slow and would not keep up with the ARMY of Esau!
 - Therefore – he encouraged Esau to go ahead (*jussive*)!
 - Jacob would SURELY follow (*cohortative*) at a slower pace!
 - Ironical that Jacob said he could not move at a quick pace...
 - Recall when he was fleeing from Laban – he traveled 600km in 10 days – **Genesis 31:23**
 - 2nd - Esau REALLY wanted to leave (*hiphil / cohortative*) some men with Jacob...
 - Jacob REALLY did not want him to – let me find favor (*cohortative*)!
 - So Esau left – and returned to Seir (*harry*) – the home of Esau!
 - But Jacob was not in any rush to get to Esau – he stopped and built houses (*Succoth*)
 - Building houses for your family and herds means you are not in a hurry!
 - If you asked me to come live with you – and I said yes – then started building a house...

- You might get the idea I was only being polite – I was not coming after all!
- Jacob never even made it to Seir or anywhere close to the Red Sea...
 - He only got as far as Shechem – where Abraham had first entered the Land – **Genesis 12:6**
 - It is in the northern Israel – opposite from Seir – there Jacob bought a piece of a field!
 - The reason – he was not called to go to Seir – but to the land of Canaan!
 - Jacob had wandered for 60 years – never knowing what was next...
 - Jacob did not know where he belonged – until he stopped running...
 - Then he found the Lord brought him to exactly the right place – the land of Israel!
- Jacob built an altar to - El Elohe Israel [אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל] – God is the God of Israel...
 - God had done exactly what He had promised – **Genesis 28:15**
 - God brought Israel – against all odds – safely back to the Promised Land!
 - If we are not sure where we belong in life – what we are called to do...
 - If we feel like we are wandering – not sure where we are going...
 - The answer is to focus on the Lord – get into the Word – spend time with Jesus...
 - He will remove our FEAR – He will make us CONTENT...
 - He brings everything into FOCUS – and we will find we are exactly where we belong!
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”
- 4TH - LUST NOT LOVE... vs. 1-12
 - 1ST - Dinah – the daughter of Leah – went out to see the other women of the land... vs. 1
 - There is a fact missing from our story – how did Shechem get Dinah alone...
 - The suggestion here is Dinah was hanging around with worldly girls – bad crowd...
 - And as a result of being with her barkada – she was seen (*sequential*) by prince Shechem!
 - You can almost hear the conversation – the prince is looking at you – he thinks your cute...
 - Why not go over and say hi – what can it hurt!
 - Ladies – be VERY careful who you hang out with...
 - For sure there is safety in numbers – but make sure they are GODLY women...
 - Those who are going to encourage you to be PURE in Jesus – not talk to cute guys...
 - I often see young men and women alone together - and it is not wise...
 - Even if they were just talking - other people do not know that...
 - **II Thessalonians 5:22** - “Stay away from all appearance of evil.”
 - And ladies if you ever have an eerie feeling about a guy – get out – do not wait around!
 - 2ND - Shechem – the prince of the land – saw her... vs. 2-4
 - He took her - raped her – and violated / humbled (*piel*) her...
 - If a woman has been raped – there is a great deal of shame!
 - She is often left to feel like it was at least partly her fault – she tempted the man...
 - She may feel like she cannot tell anyone – because it is very embarrassing...
 - But the truth she did NOTHING wrong – and it must be shared!
 - Whether it is to a close friend / family member / or police – do not hide...
 - Both for the sake of the girl – so she can talk about it and begin to heal...
 - And for the sake of other women – who might fall prey to the same guy!
 - His soul became attached to Dinah – and he *loved* her – and spoke kindly to her...
 - He even demanded his father Hamor (*donkey*) – get him Dinah as his wife!
 - All verbs – saw – took – raped – humbled – attached – loved – are sequential imperfects...
 - Meaning his looking at Dinah led to him raping and humiliating her!
 - The battle over sexual immorality is not just fought in what we do...
 - Temptation becomes sin when we look – fantasize about it – then act...

- We avoid sexual immorality by fighting the battle in our mind - **Matthew 5:28**
- We allow our mind to dwell on a desire - then that desire turns to action – sin!
- **James 1:12-15** – “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it... brings forth death.”
- Raping Dinah did not show her he LOVED her – obviously...
 - It showed Shechem did NOT love Dinah – he only LUSTED after her!
 - The difference – LOVE is from the Lord – LUST is our own sinful desires!
 - If Shechem had loved Dinah - he would have honored and respected her...
 - But it was not about Dinah – it was just about what he wanted – LUST!
 - Men look for sex - but do not stop to consider the consequences for the girl...
 - Women are not looking for sex – they are looking for love – they give sex to get love...
 - Men devastate a girl by taking her purity – NOT an act of love – just a response to LUST...
 - And the Lord is the one who will punish those who take advantage of His kids!
 - **Luke 17:2** – “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones...”
- o 3rd – Jacob and the brothers... vs. 5-7
 - Jacob heard Shechem had defiled (*piel*) Dinah – but he held his peace...
 - It can be easy to misinterpret this as INACTION – he should have done SOMETHING!
 - But here again we see the new character of Israel – he was NOT the solution...
 - Jacob new his ANGER would NOT help his daughter – he was waiting on the Lord!
 - **James 1:20** – “The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”
 - I do not want to think about what I would do if someone harmed my daughter...
 - The temptation for rage and revenge would be almost overwhelming...
 - But what would my rage accomplish – would it bring any healing to the one I love!
 - When Jesus was crucified on the cross – when our sins cost the Father His Son...
 - He did not react in fury and revenge – instead He reached out in love and compassion...
 - He set a powerful precedent – we are called to LOVE our enemies!
 - **Luke 6:35** – “Love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”
 - In contrast – when the brothers found out what Shechem had done – they were VERY angry!
- o 4th – The proposal of Hamor / Shechem... vs. 8-12
 - Hamor and Shechem came to Jacob to speak (*piel*) to him...
 - The soul of Shechem longed (*perfect*) for Dinah – give her as his wife (*imperative*) ...
 - But he did not stop at Dinah – let us make marriages (*imperative*) ...
 - You give us your daughters – we will give you our daughters – become ONE people...
 - Then they would inherit the land – blending with the people who lived there...
 - This would have been very tempting to Israel and his sons...
 - They had been promised the land – this would seem to fulfill the promise!
 - Cheat on the test – steal what you want – move in with your boy / girlfriend...
 - The worlds way can seem to be the easy answer – but it does not end well!
 - Plea of Shechem – ask ANYTHING – no matter how much - and I will give it...
 - Because Shechem had been driven by LUST – he was blind to its consequences...
 - He was willing to do anything to get what he lusted after!
 - Have you ever craved a certain kind of food – mouth salivating to get it...
 - And when we finally eat it – one bite is NOT enough - we want more...
 - We could eat till we become sick – and yet it is never enough!
 - Lust can never be satisfied – it will always want more...

- Lust wants – more money / more pleasure / more things / more power...
- But it is never enough – in the end it costs us everything – for nothing...
- When we are driven by our lusts – we will hurt ourselves!
- **Galatians 5:16** – “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”
- **5TH - UNGODLY ANGER... vs. 13-31**
 - o 1st - The brothers of Dinah were very ANGRY... vs. 13-24
 - So they answered VERY deceitfully (*piel*) because of what happened to Dinah...
 - Their only condition – all of the men of the city of Shechem be CIRCUMCISED...
 - If they would do this one thing – then the intermarrying could happen!
 - The words pleased Shechem and Hamor...
 - Shechem – did not delay (*piel* – *intensive*) to do this thing – get everyone CIRCUMCISED...
 - He convinced his men to be CIRCUMCISED – by appealing to their GREED...
 - If they intermarried – all the wealth of Israel would become theirs!
 - So ALL the men of the city agreed – and were CIRCUMCISED!
 - Yet Shechem was more honorable (*niphal* – *passive*) than all his house!
 - A greedy liar – who had raped Dinah – because he lusted after her...
 - If he was more honorable than the rest of his house – what were the rest like!
 - These were the very last people Jacob wanted to join with!
 - The worlds way seems the easier way – but to join them is to become like them...
 - We are not called to conform to this world – but to stand as a light for Jesus in it!
 - **James 4:4** – “Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
 - o 2nd – Vengeance NOT Justice... vs. 25-30
 - When all of the circumcised men were in unbearable pain...
 - Levi and Simeon (*the full brothers of Dinah*) – came into the city with swords...
 - They killed every man – including Hamor and Shechem – and took Dinah...
 - They took all their sheep – oxen - donkeys / they took what was in the city and the fields...
 - ALL their wealth / ALL their wives and children (*as slaves*) / ALL that was in their houses!
 - ALL this they did - because of ONE sin - Shechem raped (*piel*) Dinah!
 - The Old Testament version of justice was an eye for eye - **Deuteronomy 19:21**
 - The Law was not meant to be vindictive – it was meant to be limiting...
 - Meaning you were not allowed to do more to someone in revenge than they had done...
 - We want revenge - if you take my eye – I want to take both of yours / and ears / nose...
 - If you start the fight - I am MORE than willing to be the one to finish it!
 - We naturally want to get back - take revenge - on those who attack us!
 - Even after they apologize - we want to hold onto our hurt - we want JUSTICE!
 - But we are called to forgive - no matter what anyone has done to us - **Luke 17:1-10**
 - **Romans 12:19** – “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.”
 - When Jacob found out he was furious...
 - You have caused me to STINK (*hiphil*) among the people in the Land...
 - Jacob was concerned about backlash from the other Canaanite tribes...
 - They would gather (*niphal* – *passive*) in great numbers...
 - Then they would destroy (*niphal*) Jacob and his sons who were still few!
 - They would wipe out his family for what Levi and Simeon had done!
 - Levi and Simeon answered – should we let them treat our sister like a harlot!
 - Their ANGER was not wrong – but their RESPONCE was...
 - We get additional insight into the character of these two men at the end of Genesis...

- They killed – not just for revenge – they liked it and were men of VIOLENCE!
- VIOLENCE - [חָמָס] *hamas* – violent / wrong / cruel / and unjust!
- **Genesis 49:5-6** - "Simeon and Levi are two of a kind—men of VIOLENCE. O my soul, stay away from them. May I never be a party to their wicked plans. For in their anger they murdered men, and they crippled oxen just for sport."
- Dealing with ANGER without SIN...
 - **John 2** - Jesus made a whip and drove out those selling animals for sacrifice...
 - The temple - the Jewish religion - had become a moneymaking industry...
 - One that took advantage of the poor and those who were seeking to know God!
 - And it frankly made Jesus ANGRY - they were keeping men from God!
 - Jesus got angry - but never sinned - so we can be ANGRY and not sin!
 - **Ephesians 4:26** - "Be angry, and do not sin..."
 - There are times when we as believers in Jesus - we should be angry...
 - When you see movies depict living together as an acceptable lifestyle...
 - When you see ads that make it look cool to be drunk!
 - Not angry at sinners - they need our help - but angry at sin...
 - We need to speak out - we need to take action - because it destroys lives!
 - **Isaiah 5:20** - "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..."
- Being ANGRY does not mean taking vengeance on others
 - When men do wrong against us – or those we love – we have 2 choices
 - We can take vengeance in our own hands – or we can leave it to the Lord
 - God is a far better at defending us – God is far fairer in judging others!