

**The Story of Jacob**  
*Heroes of Faith Series*  
Week 14: A Brutal Revenge

## Scripture

Genesis 34

## Review

**Genesis 30** – Jacob’s family drama with Leah and Rachel. We saw that even in jealousy and rivalry, God was building His covenant people.

**Genesis 31** – God calls Jacob to leave Haran and return home. We saw how God was faithful even in the middle of Jacob’s messy family and workplace conflicts. Obedience required trust.

**Genesis 32–33** – Jacob wrestles with God at Peniel. We learned that striving with God changes us—Jacob walked away limping but blessed, renamed Israel. Meeting Esau the next day showed God’s power to reconcile broken relationships.

Now, in **Genesis 34**, we shift into one of the darkest chapters in Jacob’s story—where compromise, silence, and apathy lead to devastating consequences.

## Motivation

Let me ask you this question...

**What happens when you stop striving to grow spiritually in your home, church, or personal life?**

- When we think, *“It’s no big deal to cut a corner”*
- When we decide, *“I’ll stay quiet rather than confront sin”*
- When *comfort* feels safer than *obedience*

That’s exactly where Jacob is in Genesis 34. After his powerful encounter with God in Genesis 33, Jacob settles in Shechem instead of pressing forward to Bethel as God commanded.

That one decision set his family up for heartbreak, violence, and shame.

Genesis 34 is a sobering warning: compromise will always cost more than you think.

## Information

### ***The Consequences of Compromise...***

#### ▪ **“Small” disobedient decisions can lead to devastating consequences**

- ✓ Jacob pitched his tent in Shechem, which was outside of God’s will  
*God had directed Jacob to Bethel. How far was Bethel from Shechem? 30 miles.*  
**Genesis 31:13 (NLT)** “I am the God who appeared to you at Bethel... Now get ready and leave this country and return to the land of your birth.”  
**Genesis 35:1 (NLT)** Then God said to Jacob, “Get ready and move to Bethel and settle there. Build an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother, Esau.”

- ✓ Dinah was curious about the culture (*insulation vs. isolation*)

**Genesis 34:1 (NLT)** One day Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah, went to visit some of the young women who lived in the area. **2** But when the local prince, Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, saw Dinah, he seized her and raped her. **3** But then he fell in love with her, and he tried to win her affection with tender words. **4** He said to his father, Hamor, “Get me this young girl. I want to marry her.” [*Hamor’s son is to blame for his actions, not Dinah*]

Jacob was so close—just 30 miles from full obedience. But instead of going all the way to Bethel (where God first met him), he stopped short and settled in Shechem. “Almost obedience” isn’t obedience at all.

#### ▪ **Remaining silent allows sin to spread**

- ✓ Jacob remains silent when Dinah was raped so his sons take the lead (vengeance, not justice)

**Genesis 34:5 (NLT)** Soon Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter, Dinah. But since his sons were out in the fields herding his livestock, he said nothing until they returned. **6** Hamor, Shechem’s father, came to discuss the matter with Jacob. **7** Meanwhile, Jacob’s sons had come in from the field as soon as they heard what had happened. They were shocked and furious that their sister had been raped. Shechem had done a disgraceful thing against Jacob’s family, something that should never be done.

- ✓ Hamor tries to smooth things over through intermarriage and settlement

**Genesis 34:8 (NLT)** Hamor tried to speak with Jacob and his sons. “My son Shechem is truly in love with your daughter,” he said. “Please let him marry her. **9** In fact, let’s arrange other marriages, too. You give us your daughters for our sons, and we will give you our daughters for your sons. **10** And you may live among us; the land is open to you! Settle here and trade with us. And feel free to buy property in the area.”

- ✓ Jacob's sons develop a plan (out of Jacob's silence)

**Genesis 34:13 (NLT)** But since Shechem had defiled their sister, Dinah, Jacob's sons responded deceitfully to Shechem and his father, Hamor. **14** They said to them, "We couldn't possibly allow this, because you're not circumcised. It would be a disgrace for our sister to marry a man like you! **15** But here is a solution. If every man among you will be circumcised like we are, **16** then we will give you our daughters, and we'll take your daughters for ourselves. We will live among you and become one people. **17** But if you don't agree to be circumcised, we will take her and be on our way." **18** Hamor and his son Shechem agreed to their proposal.

- ✓ Hamor and his son convince their men that this is a good thing

**Genesis 34:24 (NLT)** And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

Failing to deal with sin allows bitterness and deception to rule.

- **Responding to sin with more sin only creates more consequences and chaos**

- ✓ Simeon and Levi slaughter the men of Shechem

**Genesis 34:25 (NLT)** But three days later, when their wounds were still sore, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, who were Dinah's full brothers, took their swords and entered the town without opposition. Then they slaughtered every male there, **26** including Hamor and his son Shechem. They killed them with their swords, then took Dinah from Shechem's house and returned to their camp. **27** Meanwhile, the rest of Jacob's sons arrived. Finding the men slaughtered, they plundered the town because their sister had been defiled there. **28** They seized all the flocks and herds and donkeys—everything they could lay their hands on, both inside the town and outside in the fields. **29** They looted all their wealth and plundered their houses. They also took all their little children and wives and led them away as captives.

- ✓ Jacob now speaks up and rebukes his sons for their cruelty

**Genesis 34:30 (NLT)** Afterward Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have ruined me! You've made me stink among all the people of this land—among all the Canaanites and Perizzites. We are so few that they will join forces and crush us. I will be ruined, and my entire household will be wiped out!"

Instead of reflecting God's covenant promises, Jacob's household looked no different than the nations around them. When we respond to sin with more sin, no one wins.

## Application

Genesis 34 ends with unresolved conflict between Jacob and his sons...

**Genesis 34:31 (NLT)** “But why should we let him treat our sister like a prostitute?” they retorted angrily.

Jacob’s silence echoes into shame. But the story doesn’t stop there. In the very next chapter (Genesis 35), God calls Jacob back to Bethel, back to the place of worship, back to obedience.

### *What Action Steps Should We Take?*

- **Guard your decisions** - Don’t camp in Shechem when God has called you to Bethel. Compromise always sets you up for danger.
- **Speak up about sin** - In your family, workplace, friendships, and church—silence only multiplies pain. Lead with truth and grace.
- **Return to Bethel** - If compromise has pulled you off course, God is still calling you back. He hasn’t abandoned you—He wants to restore you.

Are you tempted to stay comfortable in Shechem instead of moving to Bethel?

Don’t wait for sin to escalate. Don’t let silence reign. Step back into obedience today.