

H2H Questions – Week of Sunday, April 14, 2024

Genesis 34

Get to Know Me

1. What is one of your favorite Bible study tools to help you better understand God's Word?

Into the Bible

Read Genesis 34:1-4

2. The people in the Bible, like us, were affected by cultural influences, family dynamics, spiritual maturity, personal desires, etc. Each character's moral conduct could fluctuate. What did you specifically find about the way this story is told that helped you interpret the chapter (e.g. word choices for the action/conflict, key omissions in the story, messages within the story, etc.)?
3. Dinah's visit to the neighboring city made her vulnerable and Shechem "took her" and raped her (remember Abram's concern about Sarai?). Shechem presented his claim of loving Dinah as sincere, but did not apologize (Dinah was still captive in his house!). Some people will justify sinful actions because it brings them "happiness." Discuss the importance of obedience to God's moral standard.
 - a. 1 Kings 11:1-2
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 - c. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Read Genesis 34:5-12

4. Jacob was silent in the negotiations, Hamor and Shechem demonstrated no guilt, and Jacob's sons were deceitful. There is an absence of Jacob and his sons seeking God's wisdom for an appropriate response according to God's will and moral standards. How does God instruct us about making difficult decisions?
 - a. Psalm 119:1-2, 22-24
 - b. Galatians 5:16-17
 - c. James 1:5

Read Genesis 34:13-24

5. Perhaps Hamor and Shechem thought Jacob's sons were genuine because Jacob had recently purchased land from Hamor and settled there for a time (Gen 33:18-19). Identify all the wrong actions by both parties in the negotiations starting with "But the sons of Jacob answered." There are many.

Read Genesis 34:25-29

6. Simeon and Levi, two of Dinah's blood brothers, murdered the males of the city and rescued Dinah. Jacob's sons completely plundered the Hivites. All the characters are pictured unfavorably in this story, but angry vengeance is highlighted as particularly atrocious. Examine the following verses for how God instructs us to respond to evil:
 - a. Proverbs 16:32
 - b. Romans 12:18-21

Read Genesis 34:30-31

7. Jacob feared his whole household was at risk of destruction because of the murdering, but Simeon and Levi could not understand how their father could accept public disgrace in the land. This horrible story serves as a warning on how sin can be concealed in the heart and then proliferate rapidly. What does God say about overcoming sinful desires?
 - a. Genesis 4:7
 - b. James 1:14-15
 - c. Galatians 6:7-9

Application

8. Read Psalm 119:97-104 and share how scripture helps you in your spiritual battle to avoid sin and make decisions that please God.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for church leadership to receive God's wisdom as they navigate His growing church.
- Pray for servants to come alongside the Marriage and Family Ministry.