

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: Genesis

Scripture: Genesis 34:1-31

- Briefly summarize the main points of the sermon.
- What questions do you still have from today's sermon?
- Read Genesis 34:1-7
 - What does Dinah do in verse 1, and what does this reveal about the setting and context of the story?
 - How do Shechem's actions toward Dinah unfold in verses 2-4?
 - How does Jacob respond when he hears what happened to Dinah? (v. 5)
 - How do Dinah's brothers react when they learn what happened, and why are they "indignant and very angry"? (v. 6-7)
 - What does this passage reveal about the seriousness of violating another person's dignity and the impact such sin has on families and communities? (See Deuteronomy 22:25-27.)
 - How should God's people respond when confronted with injustice or harm done to others? (See Micah 6:8.)
 - What can we learn about the importance of seeking God's wisdom and patience before reacting to painful or emotional situations? (See James 1:19-20.)
- Read Genesis 34:8-17
 - What proposal do Hamor and Shechem make to Jacob and his sons, and how do they attempt to justify it? (v. 8-10)
 - How does Shechem describe his desire for Dinah in verse 12?
 - What response do Jacob's sons give, and how do they use the issue of circumcision in their plan? (v. 13-17)
 - What does this section reveal about the motivations and intentions of both sides?
 - What dangers arise when conflicts are addressed with manipulation or deceit instead of pursuing justice and truth? (See Proverbs 12:19.)
 - How can we discern when attempts at reconciliation or peace are genuine or self-serving? (See Romans 12:9.)
 - What principles for honest, God-honoring conflict resolution do we see throughout Scripture? (See Matthew 18:15-17.)
- Read Genesis 34:18-31
 - Why do Hamor and Shechem agree to circumcision, and how do they convince the men of the city to follow? (v. 18-24)
 - How do Simeon and Levi carry out their revenge, and what actions do the other sons take afterward? (v. 25-29)
 - What is Jacob's reaction to his sons' actions, and what concerns does he express? (v. 30)
 - How do Simeon and Levi defend their actions, and what does their response reveal? (v. 31)
 - What does this passage teach about the destructive nature of unchecked anger and vengeance? (See Romans 12:17-19.)
 - Why is it important to balance justice with righteousness, ensuring that responses to wrongdoing reflect God's character? (See Psalm 89:14.)
 - How can the church cultivate wisdom, accountability, and restraint when dealing with wrongdoing or conflict? (See Galatians 6:1-2.)