

**GENESIS 32:22-34:31**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 32 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Last time we ended our study in Genesis 32:21 and if you remember, Jacob is on his way home.

He spent twenty years with his uncle Laban. He fled there to Haran because his brother Esau wanted to kill him.

But now the Lord was stirring the heart of Jacob to go home. And we see that the Lord spoke to Jacob and said to him in Genesis 31:13, **“I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.”**

So Jacob and his family leave Haran but Jacob is still concerned about his brother Esau. He is wondering if he still wants to kill him. And for Jacob, traveling with his wives, his children, his servants, his livestock, he would be easy prey if Esau wanted to attack him.

Because of that he sends his servants to go check things out, and they come back telling Jacob that Esau is coming to meet him, and he has four hundred men with him. In Jacob’s mind the only reason he is coming with that many men is that he still wants to kill him!

Remember Jacob, what his name means. Schemer, deceiver and that is what he is trying to do here. He wants to please Esau by giving him a lot of gifts so that he does not kill Jacob!

Listen to what he does. In Genesis 32:13b-16 we are told, “**. . . and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, ‘Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves.’**”

What Jacob puts together is five herds that are going to be sent out with a distance between them and the servants overseeing them. And they will present these gifts to Esau, a gift from his brother Jacob.

Now, if Jacob truly trusted God, he would have been in front to meet Esau and not send these gifts on ahead. I see Jacob’s actions here as nothing more than a carnal attempt to save his life by attempting to buy his brother Esau’s good favor.

And we concluded last time with these words, “**So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.**” Genesis 32:21.

If you are not resting in the Lord you are going to be anxious, fearful, worried, and you will wrestle with yourself trying to get some rest, some sleep. That is Jacob as we will see this evening.

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in Genesis chapter 32 beginning in verse 22 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

**GENESIS 32****VERSES 22-23**

Think about all that is on the mind of Jacob at this point. Esau is coming towards him with four hundred men. Jacob has his eleven sons and one daughter, and they were young, the oldest maybe thirteen and the youngest maybe only six.

All of this is on his mind and maybe the kids were getting on his nerves. Maybe his wives were asking all kinds of questions and asking him to fix this or that.

So Jacob separates himself by placing them on the other side of the river and he remained on the east side of the river, all alone for the night.

And now, in the quiet of the night, the Lord is going to get Jacob's attention!

Interestingly enough, the name *Jabbok* means "*He will empty.*"

I think that is very fitting because that is what is going to happen to Jacob. He is going to be emptied of self and filled with God!

Look at what happens next.

**VERSES 24-25**

We are told that when Jacob was alone there was a Man who wrestled with him!

Who is this man that wrestled with Jacob?

It is an Old Testament appearance of Jesus.

Now here is the problem. If this man is Jesus, how in the world could Jacob fight all night and it seems to be evenly matched?

Folks, Jesus could have ended it at any time, He let it go on because He was waiting for Jacob to come to the end of himself.

You see, the Hebrews word for “**wrestled**” means “*to get dusty.*”

I find that interesting because Jacob had to be wrestled down before the Lord could lift him up. He had to come to the end of himself!

But like many, he refused to give in, and the Lord touched the socket of his hip and crippled him.

It is at this point that Jacob realizes that he can't run anymore, he can't scheme and lie and try to solve things on his own.

We do the same thing with God as Jacob did.

In fact, Boice makes this interesting comment on this. He wrote, “***How did Jacob ever manage to keep up his struggle throughout the entire night? I do not know. But I do know that his determination to hang in there was no greater than our frequent determination to have our own way and eventually win out over God.***”

Here's the thing. You can't fight against God and win and if you think about it, if you could win, you will lose because God has what is best for our life, just as He does with Jacob here!

Remember what we are told in Isaiah 45:9a, “**Woe to him who strives with his Maker!** . . .” Jacob is striving with his Maker here and that won't help us. We must surrender to Him!

#### VERSE 26

As you read this and picture in your mind how Jacob is holding onto Jesus, it seems like Jacob is the one in control and he refuses to let go until God blesses him.

What is sad is that there are some who teach this, that you have to wrestle with God until He blesses you! You keep fighting and fighting and eventually, God will give in!

That is garbage and that is not what is going on here. Remember what we read in Isaiah 45:9a, **“Woe to him who strives with his Maker! . . .”**

In Hosea 12:3-5 we see that Jacob was not the one in control here.

Hosea tells us, **“He took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength he struggled with God. Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us - That is, the Lord God of hosts. The Lord is His memorable name.”**

In other words, Jacob was defeated, he was weeping and in this broken state he surrendered his life to God and was asking his Lord to bless him in his journey!

And truly what we are seeing here is God answering the prayer of Jacob back in Genesis 32:9-12, but before the Lord was going to deliver Jacob from the hand of his brother Esau, he had to be broken of his self-will and self-reliance!

Isn't that true in our own lives? We look outward at the enemy when in reality, the biggest enemy is from within, our flesh, which has to be conquered by God, but it will not be until we are willing to surrender it to Him!

Tragically there are some who believe that the real problem is that man has a low self-esteem. No, not a low self-esteem but we think too highly of ourselves, as Jacob did, and God will break us so that we may rest in him and not in ourselves!

Paul tells us in Romans 12:3, **“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”**

That is the way we are to look at ourselves, not exalting self, but the Lord!

VERSES 27-29

Remember some twenty years earlier when his father Isaac asked him his name, he lied and said that he was Esau so that he could get the blessing by deception.

Here we are some twenty years later, and the Lord asks him his name and he says that it is Jacob or con man, schemer.

You see, he saw himself as he really was.

But now the Lord changes his name to *Israel* or “**Governed by God**” or “**God rules.**”

Do you see the difference?

One is self-centered and the other is God-centered!

Yes, for years Jacob struggled with God and with men and he prevailed, or he got his own way. But now it was time to break him of that!

And the Lord does not praise Jacob, not at all. This was the problem, he got his way, it was all about him and the Lord was going to break him of that as I have said!

Even when Jacob encountered God at Bethel, he did not surrender to God. Not until Jabbok, for it is here that he was emptied for his self-will and self-effort and filled with God!

What is interesting here and is true in our own lives many times, is that there is still enough of that “**old man**” in him that he is called Jacob twice as much as he is called Israel after his name is changed. (45 times to 23)

How about you? Have you crucified the old man, have you put to death that flesh nature? Or is it still resurrecting itself more than you like? Daily we must put that flesh nature to death!

Paul, in Romans 6:6 tells us, **“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”**

If you are struggling, Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:17-24, **“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”**

You see, give the old life to God that you may be filled with the new. Surrender your life to Him and crucify the flesh nature, that old man!

Again, in Colossians 3:8-17 Paul picks up on this and tells us, **“But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”**

May we do that and be Christ-centered instead of self-centered!

Now let me ask you this. How did Jacob prevail against God?

He prevailed against God when he recognized that he lost, that is when he won! He died to self and surrendered to God and truly that is the only way we can prevail against God, through weakness, through surrender! We are strong through weakness because we are not trusting in ourselves but the Lord!

Then we see Jacob asked the Lord his name. And instead of the Lord answering He said, **“... ‘Why is it that you ask about My name?’ And He blessed him there.”** Genesis 32:29.

Why did He respond like that? Why didn't He answer Jacob?



Because the Lord's name does not change as did Jacob's, depending on his actions.

We are told in Hebrews 13:8, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**"

Thus, Jacob knew His name already because the Lord's name is unchanging because His nature, His character does not change!

### VERSES 30-32

The name, "**Peniel**" means "*face of God.*"

Thus, he had seen not only the face of God, but he wrestled with God and won by losing, by surrendering his life to Him!

And this limp that Jacob received was a reminder to him of how he had to be broken before he would surrender. He could no longer run away from his problems but now he had to rest in the Lord as he was governed by God!

It is as Paul reminds us in II Corinthians 12:9-10, "**And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

That was where Jacob was at and truly, it is where we need to be. Weak in the flesh and strong in the Lord!

Now as great as this encounter was, Jacob still struggled with this surrender and resting in the Lord as we will see in the next chapter, chapter 33 of Genesis!

**GENESIS 33****VERSES 1-2**

As Jacob prepares to meet his brother Esau, he lines up his family.

He put the maidservants and their children first, then Leah and her children and finally Rachel and her child. And I think the idea here is that he loved Rachel the most, saving the best for last, then Leah and then, of course his maidservants. He was trying to protect Rachel and Joseph from Esau by putting them at the back of this line.

I find this interesting. God changed his name from Jacob, schemer to Israel or governed by God and now he is reverting back to Jacob as he is walking in the flesh.

**VERSE 3**

Think about all that has taken place before this meeting with his brother Esau even took place. He already sent over gifts to Esau.

Now he is bowing before him showing that he was submitted to his brother. He did not want to be in charge of him, no power struggle here on Jacob's part.

The only problem was that God had told Jacob (and before he and Esau were born to Rebekah) that he would be greater than his brother Esau in rank and that Esau (the Edomites) would serve Jacob (the Israelites).

Notice what Jacob is doing here. He is going against God's will for his life because of his fear of his brother!

Remember what Proverbs 29:25 says, "**The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.**" How true that is!

Now let's think about this for a minute.

If Jacob did not get in the way twenty years ago by stealing the blessing from his brother Esau that was really his, given to him by God, he would not have been placed in the mess he is in now.

What a great lesson for us, to stay out of the way of God!

#### VERSES 4-7

I'm not sure what Jacob was thinking as Esau was running towards him.

But after the warm embrace, the past was forgotten. Esau let it go.

What a great lesson for us to learn. To let those things go, the wrongs that were done to us and embrace family and friends in the love of Christ.

I know, it is not easy but if it was, you wouldn't need God to help you! Think about it, Jacob needed God because it was not easy and so do we!

Paul makes this very clear when he tells us in Ephesians 4:30-32, "**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**"

This is not a suggestion!

Now when you look at the actions of Esau, he was happy to see Jacob his brother. This was genuine love that he had for Jacob!

But when you see the actions of Jacob, his tears may have been tears that Esau was not going to kill him, tears of relief! Jacob's greeting and all the gifts he gives to Esau were not genuine but were designed to appease Esau so that he wouldn't do Jacob harm.

And there is nothing really genuine about Jacob and his encounter with his brother and we will see this played out even more as this chapter closes.

Esau is not a believer, there is no indication of that. But his actions were godlier than his brother's!

And think about that. Jacob is a believer, and he mentions God often, but his actions did not show a relationship with God.

What a lesson for us to learn. That our talk and our walk with the Lord match up to what we say we believe!

#### VERSES 8-11

Why was this so important for Esau to take these gifts, those 580 animals from Jacob?

Because, in that culture you would never accept a gift from an enemy, thus, if Esau received these gifts, it was saying that he forgave his brother Jacob because to accept that gift was to accept the friendship!

Now what is this idea of Jacob saying that when he saw his brother Esau it was like seeing the face of God?

I think the point that he is making is this. Jacob had seen the face of God and lived and then he saw the face of Esau and lived, so that to him Esau's face was like that of God.

VERSES 12-17

I get the idea here that Jacob is happy to be reconciled with Esau, but he is still a little unsure of him and thus, wants to keep his distance.

What is sad is that Jacob comes shining through instead of Israel.

He said he couldn't keep up with Esau, which was true, but he would meet up with him in Mount Seir, which was untrue.

You see, as soon as Esau was a few days out, instead of heading south, Jacob goes north to Succoth.

Here is this man of God that flat out lies to Esau about joining him in Seir!

Now did God call Jacob to go to Succoth?

No, He called Jacob to return to Bethel. But, for the next ten years he will stay out of God's will for his life and not return to Bethel.

Let me ask you this as we have seen what Jacob has done. Do you think it is possible to be Israel and Jacob at the same time, a kind of *Israe-ob or Jac-real?*

I don't believe so!

You are either governed by God or governed by the flesh and here we see him governed and guided by his flesh, his own plans, his own ideas, his own ways and not God's – **JACOB** instead of **ISRAEL!**

VERSES 18-20

First of all, he stops outside the land of Canaan, the Promise Land in Succoth and by the text it seems that he stays there a while. He Makes booths for his livestock and a house for himself!

But again, he is not where he needs to be, in the land of Canaan as God instructed him!

Secondly, he stops in Shechem!

What did the Lord tell Jacob back in Genesis 31:13, **“I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.”**

God called Jacob to go to Bethel and he stops in Shechem.

Yes, it was in the Promise Land, but it is not where God wanted him to be! He is about twenty or thirty miles away from Bethel, yes, close but no cigar!

One example I can give you in my life is God calling me to Wisconsin. He spoke to my heart some eleven or so years before He brought it to pass and during that time, I was offered a senior pastor’s position in a church that was in Illinois. And this church was very close to the boarder of Wisconsin. And as intriguing as it was, it was not Wisconsin, so I did not even apply for the position, and I told them why.

Could I have taken it?

Yes, but it was not the place that God wanted me, He wanted me in Wisconsin and specifically Manitowoc!

Jacob did not obey what the Lord was showing him, where He told Jacob to go!

Now, here in Shechem Jacob builds God an altar and calls the place, **“El Elohe Israel”** or ***“God, the God of Israel.”***

Okay, so he is not where he should be but look at the sacrifice he made for God, won’t God accept this?

I don’t believe so. You see, God wants obedience before sacrifice!

In I Samuel 15:22-23 we see the disobedience of King Saul and how the Lord looked upon it. We are told, **“So Samuel said: ‘Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.’”**

God takes obedience very seriously!

If you doubt this, listen to what Peter tells us in I Peter 3:7, **“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”**

In other words, if you don't treat your wife as God has said, your prayers will not be heard by God, or more correctly, they will not be answered by God until you repent and treat your wife as God has said!

God does take obedience very seriously!

And David, after his sin with Bathsheba said in Psalm 51:16-17, **“For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart - These, O God, You will not despise.”**

God does desire our obedience and then He will accept our sacrifice.

For Jacob, he was not in the place that God wanted him to be, and he will bear the fruit of his disobedience until he goes back to Bethel, the house of God, the place God called him to.

May we not waste our time because we are not in the place God wants us to be. May we learn the lesson and walk in obedience to the Lord and see the blessings that God will pour down upon us! Jacob will learn this and so should we!

**GENESIS 34****VERSES 1-4**

Dinah, the daughter of Jacob was bored with her eleven brothers, and she wanted to see the world you might say. She wanted to see what the other girls were doing, and Josephus tells us that she went out during a pagan festival.

Dinah is about fifteen or sixteen years old at this time and here's the problem. Girls that were of the marriageable age, which Dinah was, were not permitted to leave the tents of their people and go to other areas without a chaperone.

In fact, the Hebrew term, "**went out**" carries with it the idea of impropriety! What she was doing was wrong.

So Dinah slips out of her tent, her parents and her brothers don't see what she is doing!

And as she goes out, she is raped!

Now when we read what Shechem did to Dinah, we are outraged and rightly so.

Some say she was not raped but I believe that is what the text is saying here, for he "**violated**" her! I don't know any other way to take that. This was not something she was looking for, something that she wanted and thus, he raped her!

Please understand that in that pagan society, what he did was not necessarily wrong, if you can believe that.

Morris tells us, "*Unattached young women were considered fair game in cities of the time, in which promiscuity was not only common but, in fact, a part of the very religious system itself.*"



And Leupold said, *“This occurrence serves to illustrate the low standard of morals prevalent among the Canaanites. Any unattended female could be raped, and in the transactions that ensue neither father nor son feel the need of apologizing for or excusing what had been committed.”*

That is why Jacob, or at least one of the reasons he should have stopped Dinah from going into this city in the first place. He should have been watching out for her or had one of her brothers watching out for her.

And how important it is today to watch out for our children, our grandchildren. Where they are going, who they are hanging out with. Be careful, it is a dangerous world.

And what took place back then, I think you understand that the world is no different today. If you think it is, then listen to this. We are told,

Psychologists, researchers, and campus activists have long strived to reduce students’ vulnerability to unwanted sexual contact, including assaults, at U. S. colleges and universities.

Overall, 13% of college and graduate students report nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or an inability to consent, according to a 2019 Association of American Universities survey of nearly 182,000 students.

The highest rates occurred among female undergraduates (25.9%)

- <https://bit.ly/3rcmvVn>

Let me share some stats with you. We are told,

- 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed rape; 2.8% attempted rape).
- 9 of every 10 rape victims were female in 2003.

**Lifetime rate of rape/attempted rape for women by race**

- All women: 17.6%
- White women: 17.7%
- Black women: 18.8%
- Asian Pacific Islander women: 6.8%
- American Indian/Alaskan women: 34.1%

- <https://bit.ly/3SzmeYm>

How sad that is but when you remove God from your life then you can do whatever is right in your own eyes, and we are seeing the consequences of that mentality, and it is not good. And tragically we see Hollywood and the music industry promote this kind of activity as being okay, and it is not!

Now, as some read this, they say that Shechem fell in love with Dinah, even though he raped her, and he wanted to make it right and thus, he wanted to marry her!

I don't think so. He didn't love her. He lusted after her. He was not interested in caring for her, what he could do for her, but what he could get from her.

In fact, if you are still unsure, listen to how he asks his dad to get Dinah for him, **“Get me this young woman as a wife.”**

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“‘Get this girl for me,’ he demanded. ‘I want to marry her.’”** Genesis 34:4.

It sounds a lot like Samson and what he told his parents about getting a woman for him, a pagan woman!

In Judges 14:1-3 we are told of this incident, **“Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, ‘I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.’ Then his father and mother said to him, ‘Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?’ And Samson said to his father, ‘Get her for me, for she pleases me well.’”**

At least his parents tried to persuade him, but he refused to listen, and they did as Samson told them, instead of doing what was right!

Now for this man Shechem, this was not a godly love for Dinah. How do I know that?

Simply, Paul tells us in I Corinthians 13:4-8a, **“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”**

You see, love waits while lust takes!

Love is others centered. Lust is self-centered!

Where are you at in your relationship?

#### VERSES 5-7

So when Jacob finds out what has been done with his daughter, Dinah, what does he do?

He does nothing!

Here Jacob's daughter is raped, and he does absolutely nothing. I can't even imagine not doing anything, but that was Jacob, always planning, working things out for his betterment!

Now, as her brothers hear what happened, they are outraged, they are angry, and they will take things into their own hands since their dad won't.

This is not going to be a good thing folks, letting the flesh control their actions.

### VERSES 8-12

God told Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to separate from the world and along comes Hamor, the father of Shechem and offers Jacob all that the world has to offer, and the key here is the offer to intermarry with the Canaanites.

What we see here is Satan's attempt to pollute, corrupt the Messianic lineage and prevent the Messiah from coming from the seed of the woman!

Now, as you read this it does seem that Hamor and Shechem are very generous as they say, “**. . . ‘Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife.’**” Genesis 34:11-12.

In other words, “*Name your price and we will pay it!*”

Please don't miss the point, he raped Dinah and now he wants to, in a sense, purchase her and is willing to pay off her father to make this happen!

But again, Jacob is not where he should be in his walk with the Lord and it is not only affecting him, but it is also affecting his children, his family!

VERSES 13-17

Where did the sons of Jacob learn this deceitfulness?

Yes, the heart of man is wicked, but they also had a good teacher, their father Jacob! And they learned the lesson well.

And isn't it interesting how they use spiritual things to cover up their deceitful plan!

This covenant of circumcision, which was practiced by some pagan cultures at that time, not many, was given to Abraham by God as a covenant with God's people and it was not something that they could just give away!

Yes, Shechem violated their sister Dinah, but that did not justify their actions.

And look at verse 17 again. It says, "**But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone.**" Genesis 34:17.

What that tells me is that after Shechem raped Dinah, he had her locked up in a sense, she could not get away. You see, they are saying that they will take Dinah back with them, which means that Shechem has her! (Also see Genesis 34:26)

So here is the plan and it is up to Hamor and Shechem, will they agree to this plan and have all the males of their city circumcised or will they reject it?

Please keep in mind that circumcision back then was not done with anesthesia and a scalpel or knife, but with a **STONE!**

I feel sick just thinking about it so let's move on!

VERSES 18-24

Hamor and Shechem agree to this deal and now they have to sell it to the men of the city. I kind of picture it like this. ***“Men, we have a proposition for you. The family of Jacob is wealthy, and they live in our land, have many possessions. They have many women that can be ours. You have to be circumcised. And we can gain their possessions and did I tell you about the women!”***

I don't think they dwelt long on that circumcision part, would you?

What I do find amazing is the men agreed to this, but why?

It is amazing what men will do for women and wealth, isn't it! That truly was the motivating force behind them being circumcised!

They rationalized that a few days of pain was worth it, they would gain lots of wealth, but they had no idea what was coming!

VERSES 25-29

They were in pain on the third day. Hey, if I saw someone picking up a stone to do that to me, I would be in pain before it even began! In fact, I'm hurting already just thinking about this.

But at this point, on the third day, they were in bad shape, they couldn't fight, I bet they had a hard time walking!

It was at this point that Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, came into the city and killed Hamor, Shechem and the men of the city, plundering the city.

And in their hearts, they felt they did what was right, but the punishment did not fit the crime. Just because they were successful does not mean that God blessed them and honored what they did. Not at all!

And when I look at this all I can think is what a horrific response they had towards what they did to their sister. The people of the city were not guilty, just Shechem. Yes, he should have been punished, but not the entire city!

If that wasn't bad enough, when Jacob learns what they have done his response seems extremely self-focused. Look at what he says.

### VERSES 30-31

Who is Jacob concerned with here?

He is concerned about himself and what these other nations, the inhabitants of the land will think about what his sons have done. In other words, they may come after him.

What is missing here?

There is no concern for Dinah, or the death of the people of Shechem.

Thus, notice that God calls him **Jacob** here, schemer, heel-catcher instead of **Israel**, governed by God!

He should have dealt with the sin of his sons, and the sin of Shechem and comforted Dinah, but he didn't, at least not at this point.

And the reality is, he could have prevented this by stopping Dinah from going in the first place!

Now, at the end of Jacob's life, when he is about to die, he prophesied over his 12 sons, and this is what he had to say about Simeon and Levi for what they did here in Genesis chapter 34, "**Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.**" Genesis 49:5-7.

Yes, he did rebuke them but a little too late!

As I close, let me leave you with this to think about. None of this would have happened if Jacob had been where God called him to, Bethel.

What about you?

Are you where God wants you to be and if you are not, it is time to get to Bethel – the house of God!