



# **THE BEGINNINGS!**

**The Book of Genesis**

## **Faith and Consequences!**

**Genesis 34:1-31**

**Message #36 of 50 – S936**

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**@ Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, CA**



**Sunday Morning Service**

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# Faith and Consequences!

## Genesis 34:1-31

### Opening Comments

- Good morning – we will be in **Genesis 34**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- Last week we talked about forgiveness
- Forgiveness frees us from the bondage of sin
- Through forgiveness I am freed from the bondage of my sin – I am also freed from the bondage of other people’s sins against me
- Bible teaches us we can be totally free from sin
- Jesus died for sins of whole world - your sins and mine **1 John 1:7**  
**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- All sins can be forgiven - Cast as far as east from west - Slate is clean
- Some believe forgiveness erases all the consequences of sin
- God will miraculously make everything okay - Not how it works
- This is one of the reasons I try not to sin – don’t want to live with the consequences
- I know God will forgive me – His grace is amazing
- And His love for me compels me to love Him back – by not sinning
- The thing that makes life less than perfect is having to live with the consequences of my sins or the consequences of other people’s sins
- See that today in Jacob’s life
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us to love God more
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **Faith and Consequences!**
- Last time saw Jacob reconciled to brother Esau
- Everything seemed to be going Jacob’s way
- Jacob seems to be changing
- Then builds a house in Succoth - Wrong side of Jordan
- Finally gets into Canaan - Pitches tent toward Shechem
- Builds altar – calls it El Elohe Israel

- Seems like he is doing all the right things
- One big problem – wasn't supposed to be 'near Shechem'
- God wanted him to go to Bethel
- Why didn't he go there?
- Could be Bethel was pretty remote - Little village – lots of rocks
- Shechem was center of commerce for the area
- Jacob could enjoy comforts of world
- Jacob not where he is supposed to be
- Partially obedient to God = disobedience = sin
- Not where we are supposed to be - Setting ourselves up for problems
- Jacob's problem will come through his daughter Dinah
- **Genesis 34:1**
- Dinah is probably mid to late teens
- 'went out' carries idea of impropriety – probably wasn't supposed to
- 'Daughters of the land' - Wanted to see how the Canaanite girls lived
- **Genesis 34:2**
- Because Jacob was not where he is supposed to be
- Dinah is not where she is supposed to be - Exposed to great risk
- Prince Shechem rapes her
- **Genesis 34:3-4**
- Justifies act of violence as love - Asks father to arrange for a wedding
- Hard for our minds to rationalize this atrocious act as love
- The world doesn't think the same way a believer does – it can't
- **Genesis 34:5-7**
- Jacob sends word to his sons and waits
- Shechem's dad comes to talk to Jacob - Just as the boys show up
- Didn't matter what culture – disgraceful
- Defiled woman had little hope of marriage – probably live out her life in isolation
- 'in Israel' – first mention of nation by name
- **Genesis 34:8-12**
- No mention of this act of violence
- Instead suggests it can work out for mutual profit
- Promises land – God had already promised that

- Suggests they inter-marry - Jacob & family on way back from Padan-Aram because told not to inter-marry
- Then the prince Shechem speaks up
- The seeds of Jacob's partial obedience to God bear evil fruit in lives of his sons
- **Genesis 34:13-17**
- Jacob's sons speak up - suggest circumcision - where is Jacob?
- Genesis 17 – rite of admission into covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants
- Sons playing to the emotions of Hamor and Shechem
- **Genesis 34:18-23**
- Shechem may love Dinah, Hamor loves Jacob's stuff
- Strategy of the world - Cause us to intermarry with it – so it can possess our stuff
- **Genesis 34:24**
- Convince every male to go through painful circumcision
- Proof that greed will motivate people to do the strangest things.
- Sons have been biding their time to carry out their wicked plan
- **Genesis 34:25-26**
- There is no way to justify the brutality of these acts.
- It is startling and horrific.
- Here are two of the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Even though this reprehensible act is worthy of judgment, God is His mercy and grace does not reject them.
- One of them, Levi, will even play a key role in the life of the Jewish people as the priests of God's tabernacle and temple.
- Only Simeon & Levi take part in slaughter
- **Genesis 34:27-29**
- Appears that all the brothers take part in the plundering
- As bad as the rape of Dinah was - Didn't justify this response
- Complete disrespect for human life or property
- As disgusting as sons' behavior is, Jacob's response is not worthy of the father of the twelve tribes of Israel
- **Genesis 34:30**
- Who is Jacob concerned about? Himself! - Eight times 'I' or 'me'

- Had radical experience with God - Still a lot of Jacob to work out of Israel
- Boys justify their actions
- **Genesis 34:31**
- No sense of guilt or conviction
- Jacob doesn't forget this event - Comes up again in ch. 49
- What Simeon and Levi and Jacob's other sons do in this chapter is inexcusable, unjustified, and reprehensible
- What Shechem did to Dinah deserved justice
- But what Jacob's sons did was not justice – it was vengeance
- We don't have to look very far back in the history of our country to see something very similar
- When George Floyd died while being detained by the police a cry for justice rose up
- But then it was followed by a kind of violence, rioting, and plundering this country has not often seen – there was no justice in that
- Violence is never the pathway to justice
- Dinah deserved justice – George Floyd deserves justice
- What Jacob's sons did was not justice – nor was what Black Lives Matter and other groups did in response to George Floyd's death
- I don't pretend to know how justice can be accomplished in these highly emotional cases
- But I do know that what we witnessed was not justice
- Jacob is experiencing the consequences of half-way obedience
- Supposed to be in Bethel - Probably wouldn't have happened
- No person's life can be defined by single event
- Life made up of series of events - All connected and interwoven
- Some events bring greater consequences than others
- Salvation frees us from our sins - No longer are we slaves to our sins
- We are freed from the guilt and eternal consequence of our sin
- Not necessarily from the temporal consequences of our sins
- For example – the Bible teaches that we should pay our taxes
- Even if we don't approve of how the government is going to use that money
- If you cheat on your taxes – you can repent, and God will forgive you

- But the government may still come after you
- God may plan on letting us live with our consequences **Galatians 6:7**  
**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**
- How do we live with our consequences? **Living with Consequences**
- It would be best to live without sinning – but if you sin - repent
- First - **Confirm the Source**
- All consequences are a result of sin - **Romans 6:23a**  
**The wages of sin is death.**
- Sin places a pall of death on everything
- We need to identify the source
- Our sins or other's sins
- Our sins – repent & confess
- Don't be stubborn – consequences will get worse
- How about the consequences of sins of others
- Dinah wanted to know about Canaanite girls
- Got too close to a world she didn't understand
- Closer to world – further from God **James 4:4b**  
**Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**
- Maybe you are somewhere you don't belong
- Separate yourself from the evil of this world – if you can
- Sometimes consequences from someone close
- Like a spouse, parent, or child - May not be able to separate – **1 Peter 3:1-2**  
**Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.**
- May not be able to separate - Let your conduct be a light/beacon
- Drawing them to God (or pushing away)
- Sometimes the source is not connected to a person directly
- A pandemic like COVID-19 may be because sin has broken the perfection of the world God originally created
- First – Confirm the Source
- Second - **Consider the Outcome**
- God has a purpose in all that He allows - **James 1:2-4**

**My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

- God is trying to bring you to maturity/perfection = Jesus
- God doesn't cause sin, but He will use the consequences for His glory, for the blessing of others, and for growing faith
- Trials/tribulations/consequences part of the process
- James gives us 3 keys – living with consequences
- **A - Accept Them** - 'count it all joy'
- Consequences are not a mistake - God doesn't make mistakes
- Don't resist the consequences, accept them
- Doesn't mean don't do anything - Ask God to take away – maybe He will
- **B - Learn from Them** - 'knowing that the testing of your faith'
- God busy teaching us about Him
- In all events/circumstances of our life
- Consequences have a lot to teach
- Learn not to make same mistakes
- **C - Grow through Them**
- Consequences are a tool God uses to conform us to Christ
- Cooperate – always goes faster, easier
- Accept consequences as part of life God made for you
- Learn about God from the consequences
- Grow through them to be person God created you to be
- Here today – consequences are heavy upon you
- Choose today – misery or joy
- God is speaking to you about your choices
- Choose to turn away from sin
- Choose to accept life God gave you
- Choose to learn about God in trials
- Choose to grow through trials, tribulations, and consequences
- It is your choice – choose well
- **Invitation/Prayer!**
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