

Beginnings: An Outrageous Thing in Israel Genesis 34

The 1st Outrage - Religion without Righteousness

- The phrase “the women of the land” suggests trouble on the horizon.

Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?” (Genesis 27:46)

- Dinah is not blame here for what eventually happens to her, even though she’s in a perilous situation.
 - The blame lies elsewhere.
- Shechem’s actions echo other Genesis tragedies of seeing, seizing, and sinning.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6)

The sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. (Genesis 6:2)

- Shechem showed no remorse for his shameful acts.
 - Hamor and Shechem sought to negotiate their way out of Shechem’s sin.
- Application:
 - Physical aggression and sexual violence are wholly contrary to God’s Word and design.
 - God is righteous and sees all.
 - The church should display a completely different way of relating to one another.

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

- Religion is no substitute for righteousness and repentance.

The 2nd Outrage - Vengeance without Limits

- There is a place for righteous anger in the Bible.
 - Justice is not the opposite of love but an application of love for those who are wronged.
 - Dinah, an image bearer, deserved justice.

- However, Simeon and Levi pursued justice in the wrong way.
 - They acted deceitfully.
 - They trivialized the sign of circumcision.
 - They massacred an entire city.

Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. ⁶ Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen. ⁷ 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)

- Application:
 - We should be warned against becoming just like the people we hate.
 - We should pursue justice consistent with righteousness.

The 3rd Outrage - Worldliness over Conviction

- Jacob was so often a man of action, but he wasn't when it came to Dinah.
 - Jacob failed to protect his daughter in the beginning.
 - Jacob failed to defend his daughter in the end.
- Ultimately, Jacob chose comfort, convenience, & cowardice over conviction, courage, & calling.

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household." (Genesis 34:30)

- Application:
 - What is our ultimate worry or fear in this life?
 - What is our chief desire or aim in this life?

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)