

Bible Summary -Genesis 34
Responding to the Evil of Sexual Sin

Dinah is raped by a prince of the City of Shechem and this chapter records the different responses to this evil. The rapist and family want to use it for themselves to build trade relationships and satisfy lust. Jacob ignores it and turns his sons into murderers. Dinah is silent like many who suffer from sexual assault. The brothers allow their anger to explode into violence and vengeance.

How should believers respond to horrific evil? First, by dealing with our own demons of lust. Second, by getting angry without sinning. Third, by defending those who have suffered sexual sin. Fourth, by helping the pain be transformed not transferred.

Scriptures: Genesis 34:1-31; Matthew 5:27-30; Psalm 139:23-4; Ephesians 5:26; Romans 13:1-6; Revelation 21:3-4; Galatians 6:1-2

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Who do you best identify with in this story?
 - a. Jacob who saw the injustice but choose not to act out of fear for his safety and protecting his own reputation?
 - b. Dinah who was a silent victim?
 - c. The brothers who wanted violent revenge?
2. Can you tell of a time when Christ transformed your pain or circumstances and gave you beauty for ashes?
3. Does the idea of being angry for what God is angry at go against your perception of the Christian life?
4. As Christians, why is it important to stand up to injustice? What are the things that hold you back? (fear, apathy, etc.)?
5. How do we fight against a culture that normalizes lustful behavior?
6. Knowing that men and women in our community, maybe even yourself, have encountered sexual trauma, how can each of us be a safe place and create an environment for those who need to talk and/or heal from this?
7. Does the idea of being angry for what God is angry at go against your perception of the Christian life?
8. In the face of evil in this world, how can we be encouraged to continue to fight the good fight?