Genesis Chapter 34 Verses 1 – 2

* This is a ***bad scene***…a hard chapter. In fact we have come to a couple of hard chapters. Chapters that *depict* and *report* **deplorable** things. A Bible commentator named Leupold said of preaching on this chapter, *“We may well wonder if any man who had proper discernment ever drew a text (point) from this chapter…”* In other words, it’s a hard text to preach. ***For sure!***
* But check this out…this is some *shameful stuff* and we will read it and study it together but the fact that it is included in the text is ***interesting.*** If the Bible was written from the minds of men then ***stuff like this wouldn’t be here.*** How does this prop up Israel? How does this *make valiant* the history of the patriarchs? **It doesn’t in any way!** This chapter does the opposite. BUT, that’s one of the many ways that we can know for sure that this book is not the result of men’s ***minds*** and ***agendas…***
* And so it says here that Dinah went out to see the daughters of the land. *(The land of compromise)* *“To see,”* here in the Hebrew means literally, *“To see and to be seen.”* “*To observe, to consider, to experience…”* In our applicable parallel, ***she went out to experience the world***…parents in the room…**scares** you doesn’t it? Why? Because we’ve been around a bit longer, we have seen what’s out there…either we’ve ventured ourselves and made grave mistakes that today and ***for the rest of our lives we regret and we carry the consequences*** still or you have known someone or heard so many stories of folks being, well exactly what’s going to happen to Dinah…***violated.***
* Where’s Jacob? Where is Leah? Where are any of her eleven brothers? These are **real questions** that the text gives ***no*** details about…is she head strong? Is she sneaking out? We don’t know. But she goes off to see and be seen by the world and she is seemingly *unhindered* and *unprotected.* ***Two things that my children will not be!***
* ***I will be a big block-head***…blocking them if they begin to talk about going off into the world… and if they go, because ultimately they will reach an age where it’s their decision, then I will make sure they are **well prepared**…protected with truth that not only rings in their ears from their father that loves them but truth that April and I have ***lived*** in front of them for their entire lives…***that God is good. Our home is heaven. We are in the world and not of the world...AND we will, if they so wish, let them find the emptiness of hunger to the point they eat the pods with the pigs.***
* But Dinah just goes…which is mysterious and disturbing all at the same time and we read that Shechem the son of Hamor who was a man of power took her and *violated her*. In that culture, in that day, a woman by herself roaming about the city could be taken and violated with little repercussion. It’s just the way it was…and so Dinah is violated…which we really don’t know what that means because the word *“rape”* does not occur once in the Bible…the word literally means, she was ***humbled*** by him…

Genesis Chapter 34 Verses 3 - 4

* There’s a ***key word*** here that is important to consider. It says here that his ***soul*** was strongly attracted to Dinah…and he loved her and spoke kindly to her. This is explicitly, *stated here plainly in the text*, this is a ***soulish*** love…not a spiritual love. ***He loved her for what she could give him, not for what he could give her.*** *“Get me”* he says of her…
* And this suckers so many *beautiful, wonderful, young* women are every day and they are **violated** by a man that will eventually be another woman’s husband. You know you *can be violated* while completely consenting…I don’t mean to be harsh, I mean to prepare you…
* Wait for the love that God blesses, ordains and is glorified by…a spiritual love that loves you for how he can serve you and give himself for you not a love for you of how you can serve him and give yourself for his bodily, fleshly fulfillment…He may be kind, he may say he loves you, but if his desire is to lay with you without committing the rest of his life to you loyally and under God, ***then his love is a violation of truth***…be careful. Regret will fill your heart, young lady. Physical sin is different. Paul wrote about it in 1 Corinthians 6…**it stays with you…**

Genesis Chapter 34 Verse 5

* What?! Where is the *weeping?* Where is the *outrage*? He held his peace!? This chapter, for me, needs **MUCH** more detail. **HA!** I’m left almost disgusted by so much in this chapter which again is a *proof positive* to me that men with soulish minds didn’t write this book! If they had then it would probably read so much differently but God has other things for me to focus on I’m sure so we read the narrative and press forward.

Genesis Chapter 34 Verse 6 – 10

* I see this as an ***invitation.*** Hey, we’ve got your daughter, give us the rest of your family. On the surface it sounds good…peaceful, profitable…but the *ask* is this…***lose your identity***…stop being different and fold into us…this is a real danger when one of the children becomes part of the world. *Let’s tolerate, let’s welcome, let’s love unconditionally*…it’s a slippery slope…and I’m not here to tell you what is right or wrong in your situation…**seek the Lord.** But many tolerant and welcoming parents and friends stop many wayward youngsters and people from finding the pig pods…and they are **lost for good**, they never come back…
* Jesus said in Matthew Chapter 5, *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”*

Genesis Chapter 34 Verses 11 – 13

* That’s an *interesting* statement. The sons of Jacob acted deceitfully. Where did they ***learn*** that that is ok? **Their father.** Just as recently as our last scene Jacob fed Esau a line about traveling behind him slowly and then he immediately turned aside to Succoth and built a house…Where do the kids learn that it’s ok to *lash out and scream when they don’t get their way?* Where do they learn *disrespect* and to be a *bully?* It is all, everything, 100% from mom and dad…they may not see you do it but do they see stars **from** doing it?
* And here’s the thing, once a youngster is disrespectful ***it’s almost too late!*** Proverbs 22:6 says, *“Train a child up in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”* It does not say, *“****Correct*** *a kid toward the way he should go.”* Or *“****Restrict*** *and chastise a kid toward the way he should go.”* Those are things we do to *react* to bad behavior…it says **“Train.”** From day 1, when they are children…because once they become young men and young women, ***you can’t train them any longer!*** Jacob’s sons come by this deceit honestly and no amount of reasoning or rebuke from their father is going to turn them…they each will have to find their pig pods as they starve in the land later in the story.

Genesis Chapter 34 Verses 14 – 31

* This most certainly is a bad scene…a hard chapter. *Defilement, deceit, death, debauchery* and even here at the end, Jacob is seemingly only worried about himself while his sons justify their blasphemy…they even use the covenant sign given to them by God in order to carry out this crime. Bad scene, hard chapter and throughout all of this foolishness and darkness, the whole chapter, ***not one mention of God.***
* Bad scene, hard chapter…has that been *your week, your day, your year so far, your experience in your new job, or perhaps your old job…your marriage, your ministry*…John said in John 3:30, *“God, You must increase and so help me, I must decrease.”* From verse 1…when Dinah set out to experience the world and Jacob was nowhere to be found to verse 31 when the bloody hands of the sons are raised against their father…***how this would have been so very different, so much less death and no defilement, if God was the subject and center piece of this chapter***…but He’s not…He’s not even mentioned…