

Genesis 34 – Small Compromises Lead to Tragic Events

Compromise 1: (Genesis 33:18-19)

Jacob's call from God in Genesis 31:3 was two part: to return to land of his fathers and to his family. After meeting with Esau he compromised and did not completely return to his family.

Compromise 2: (Genesis 34: 1)

Dinah was associating with the women of the land and from Shechem's belief that he "loved" her there is a possibility there was previous interaction between Dinah and Shechem.

Life Lesson 1: (34: 2)

The world's philosophy is to take what is "deserved" by force, which is the opposite of a believer's walk of faith. Shechem saw what he wanted, so he took it without regard to the consequences. In contrast, a believer waits on and trusts in God to provide.

Life Lesson 2: (34:3-4)

The world's concept of "love" is ubiquitous thus meaningless; where God's love is powerful and meaningful. Shechem confused his "lust" for Dinah as genuine love because he didn't know any better.

Compromise 3: (34:5-7)

Our inaction to the responsibilities God has given to us are compromises that can lead to further tragedy. Jacob should have been more involved with what happened and not willing to even budge with intermarriage.

Our lack of obedience can bring shame to the very promises of God.

Jacob's name of Israel covered in shame and disgrace because of his compromise.

Life Lesson 3: (34:8-10)

We cannot try to take the promises of God in our own manner, way, and timing.

Jacob was being offered the land, its riches, and peace, which were all the things God promised, but God had told him to go to his family.

The world will often offer a shortcut to God's promises, but it is only a ploy to ruin us.

Jacob was offered a shortcut for what God promises Abraham, but Hamor's plan was to ruin and take from Jacob.

Life Lesson 4: (34:8,11-12,18-19)

We must not confuse "fish love" with real love that should overflow from our relationship with God.

Hamor and Shechem did not understand that love gives and does not take.

Life Lesson 5: (34:13)

The compromises you do in moderation, your children will do in excess.

The sons of Jacob learned deceit from Jacob who told Esau he would be coming.

Compromise 4: (34:14-17)

Don't compromise your faith by using it as a tool for personal pleasure

The sons of Jacob use the gift and sign of circumcision to get revenge on Shechem.

Life Lesson 6: (34:18-19)

When get fixated on want we want and let our lust led us, we end up easily giving up that which is precious to us.

Shechem could only see what he wanted, which led him to be willing to be circumcised.

Life Lesson 7: (34:20-24)

The devil and world as his instrument seeks to take from us what God has and will give to us.

Hamor was crafty and was wanting to take for Jacob all that God had given to him.

Life Lesson 8: (34:25-30)

God wants us to be a blessing to the world and to do that we must not strife but submit in faith to God.

Simeon and Levi took revenge and became a curse rather than a blessing to the nations around them.

Conclusion

We must not become comfortable Christians allured by the pleasures and comforts of the world while neglecting the call of God on our lives. If we do it may take something drastic to shake us out of our apathy.