

THE SEDUCTION

(The Sordid Shechem Affair)

Title: *The REAL Big Bang, Pt 33*

Series: Perseverance, Pt4

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I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. The Bible is the most fascinating book in the world. Today we look at what on the surface, appears to be an odd narrative interrupting the story of Jacob. It looks like this, if we were to outline or summarize Jacob's life to this point:

1. *Genesis* chapter 29 – It's love at first sight
2. *Genesis* chapter 30 – It's sisters' rivalry
3. *Genesis* chapter 31 – The entrepreneur goes out on his own
4. *Genesis* chapter 32 – Jacob encounters God, overcomes, and gets a name change
5. *Genesis* chapter 33 – Jacob resolves a 21-year conflict with his brother, Esau
6. *Genesis* chapter 34 – We meet one of Jacob's daughters under the strangest of circumstances—rape.

B. Before we proceed, I'd like to talk about last week. For those of you who were here last week, or watched the video posting, you know that at

the close of the service we opened the Altar for those who would like prayer to avoid “the place of no return”—the *gid hanasheh*. The results were truly ironic. Just prior to opening the Altar, I asked the 9:15ers if they had ever faced that place of “no return,” 99.9% (everybody) stood. Yet, when the Altar was opened, only a handful of people came—literally. To be honest, it was quite disturbing.

So, in between services I talked to the LORD about “why.” I really didn’t get an answer other than, tell the 11:15ers what happened at 9:15 and that I’m hoping the 11:15 congregation doesn’t respond the same way. Now, back to the irony—about 80% of the 11:15ers stood when asked how many have been to “the place of no return.” Yet, the Altar was full.

Kelly was in the hospital watching on Facebook, and commented:

Gr8 teaching! I just think a lil clearer description of "point of no return" would have been helpful. I think some got it; others may not, depending on age/maturity. Just a thought!

This was my response:

To the men ... I think I made it quite clear. With that said, there are many points of "no return." eg: More people than I want to admit have put God on the shelf because God let a parent or a loved one

die. Many have gotten angry with God and put Him on the shelf because their pet died, or God didn't answer them during a trial or struggle. The list goes on. The place of no return can be peculiar to any given person or situation. This I know, the Altar was full at 11 (not at 9 ☹).

Kelly to me:

Hi Pastor, exactly ... it was wonderful and Lord willing I will be back in service in June. God bless!

C. Allow me this moment to say, there are so many stories, miraculous stories, which come out of one's use of the Altar—don't fear it.

D. Let's pray.

II. THE SEDUCTION—THE SORDID SHECHEM AFFAIR

A. Our text

Genesis 34

1 Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the women of the land. **2** When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the ruler of that area, saw her, he took her and raped her. **3** His heart was drawn to Dinah daughter of Jacob; he loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. **4**

And Shechem said to his father Hamor, “Get me this girl as my wife.”

BACKGROUND: Dinah is the only daughter of Jacob mentioned in Scripture; there were more according to ***Genesis 46:15***. Dinah was born to Jacob and Leah when he was employed by Laban, his uncle. Her birth followed that of Zebulun, Leah’s sixth son (***Gen30:21***).

INTERESTING NOTE! This entire sordid affair could have been avoided if Jacob had done what he told his brother, Esau, he was going to do just after his name was changed to Israel—and that was to go home. But he didn’t. Why?

- 1) Could it be he didn’t trust his brother’s forgiveness?
- 2) Could it be that he liked the region of Shechem, just as Lot liked Sodom?

Whatever the case, Jacob **did not** obey the word of the LORD. God told him, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.” ***Genesis 31:3***

LISTEN! Some of life’s trials are unavoidable, and some are a result of us missing, or not listening to the voice of the LORD. Yet God, in His mercy, works out even this “sordid affair” for His glory. We’ll get there. What an Amazing God we serve! And the Church said, “Hallelujah!”

B. Back to our text

5 When Jacob heard that his daughter Dinah had been defiled his sons were in the fields with his

livestock; so he did nothing about it until they came home.

1. It is thought that Dinah was 14 years of age when this unwanted seduction took place.
2. It appears that she was allowed to run loose, so to speak, without supervision. (v1)
3. Shechem, a Canaanite city, represents the allure of the world—with all of its glitter and enticements—where the unspoken word was: “Women unmarried and unattended were legitimate prey.”

PONDER THAT STATEMENT: Sounds like today, doesn't it ladies? The advertising world tells you it's what you look like that's most important and today's commodity. And, sadly, the Church buys it just like the world does. Yet, the Bible is clear: “Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD shall be praised.” *Prov31:30*

Now, ladies and gentlemen, that doesn't mean you should do everything possible to look UNattractive, it simply means don't forget what God considers attractive—CHARACTER.

LIFE LESSON: When your children reach their teenage years (13), the world, with all of its glitz and glitter, will have tremendous appeal. Pray and pray some more. Set house rules ... and supervise. And when you think you've over supervised—you haven't. **(BTOT)**

6 Then Shechem's father Hamor went out to talk with Jacob.

NOTE: When Hamor, Shechem's father, talks with Jacob, Dinah is still in Shechem (town); possibly held captive against her wishes.

7 Meanwhile, Jacob's sons had come in from the fields as soon as they heard what had happened. They were shocked and furious, because Shechem had done an outrageous thing in Israel by sleeping with Jacob's daughter—a thing that should not be done.

8 But Hamor said to them, "My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife. **9** Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for yourselves. **10** You can settle among us; the land is open to you. Live in it, trade in it, and acquire property in it."

NOTE: It's sounds like the right thing to do—intermarry with other faiths and cultures; it will broaden who you are. But, God knows the end result—the Christian compromises what he/she believes and who he/she is. When that happens it's never a good thing. This is why, when God gives the Law at Sinai, He forbids the Hebrew to marry outside of the Jewish faith.

How many good young Christian men and women have I seen derailed for years, because they marry a non-believer? Far too many. Far too many.

C. In verses 11-13 Shechem tells Dinah's brothers that whatever they want, he will pay it if they give their sister's hand in marriage.

LADIES, IT'S NOT THAT YOU'RE NOT WORTH IT – but men, at times, can be so stupid. “Whatever you want!” I think Shechem is at the place of “no return.” The “forbidden sciatic nerve has been touched.”

Dinah’s brothers tell Hamor and Shechem that the men of Shechem would have to be circumcised; otherwise there could be no marriage. Hamor and Shechem agree and sell the entire town on the deal.

D. Let’s fast forward to *verse 24*.

24 All the men who went out of the city gate agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male in the city was circumcised.

25 Three days later, while all of them were still in pain, two of Jacob’s sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. **26** They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem’s house and left. **27** The sons of Jacob came upon the dead bodies and looted the city where their sister had been defiled. **28** They seized their flocks and herds and donkeys and everything else of theirs in the city and out in the fields. **29** They carried off all their wealth and all their women and children, taking as plunder everything in the houses.

NOTE! For Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, this wasn’t about obeying the Law—if so, they would not have taken the women—it was about vengeance.

However, vengeance did not belong to them, but to God and God only.

SO, IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GETTING VENGEANCE—DON'T. Let God. He'll do a far better job than you ever could.

30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me *obnoxious to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed.” *loathsome, detestable

31 But they replied, “Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?”

III. WHY IS THIS CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE?

(We have touched upon some of the reasons already.
Here's a recap.)

A. It *reveals* the consequences of allowing our children to run around UNSupervised. They can get into trouble when they are supervised, but we're asking for it when they are not. Does that make sense?

PROVERBS 1:8 & 9 tells us that a mother teaches and a father sees that what mom has taught is learned and practiced. “A mother for teaching; a father for instruction.”

B. It *reveals* that the character traits of the parents are often, but not always, learned

behavior by the children. Jacob's sons lived with deception all their lives—their father, their uncle and their mothers. **ILLUSTRATION**: I see all of my bad traits in my kids. It's like, "*LORD, didn't they get any of my good traits?*" LOL!

IT'S INTERESTING that Jacob doesn't discipline his sons for this act of betrayal and cruelty. He only says that they have made him odorous to his neighbors. But God does discipline them, and His punishment is pretty severe (***Genesis 49:7***).

Yet, when the Levites came alongside of Moses at the Golden Calf, God looks at their act of courage as *repentance* and turns their curse into a gargantuan blessing. (***Exodus 32:28, Numbers 3:12 & Deuteronomy 33:8-9***)

C. It reveals that the subtle philosophies of the world wage war against what we know, as Christians, to be right and wrong. The consequences are a life of unwanted grief and heartache.

D. It reveals that God has given us a set of laws by which to live, and when we break them there's a consequence to pay.

1. Yes, Simeon and Levi were instruments of God's wrath upon the transgression of Shechem.
2. But, they executed God's judgment in deceit, cruelty and an inequitable manner.

3. They, like Shechem, would be judged for their crimes.

E. It reveals, parents, that more than anything else, children learn what we *live*.

Not that what we say isn't important, it is. But how we live says far more.

1. Fathers be upright

2. Mothers be godly

There is no better instructor. It's not a foolproof guarantee, for God has given every child, every person a free will. But it gives you, as a parent, a clear conscience before God, and that's what truly matters. (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)

F. It reveals that God judges sin.

Roman 6:23 tells us

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

But (I love the *buts* in the Bible), in His love, God has provided, as He did for Levi and His descendants, a way of escape.

G. It reveals that God's love provides a pardon for all who will receive Him.

Romans 5:8

But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 1:12

... as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

III. INVITATION

A. You say, “How do I receive Christ?”

Admit– your sins have separated you from God. (*Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23*);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (*Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22*);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (*Isa 53:5; Col 1:22*);

Do it today! (*Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2*).

Father in Heaven, I’m sorry for the things I’ve done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!