

# 'Daughters'

Genesis 34

**Introduction:** Influence flows in two directions; but generally when two people get together one's influence dominates and sometimes controls.

**Precept:** When God gives us children He intends for our focus to change a bit; we are now responsible for little ones who need to be cared for, protected and instructed. (Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 7:1-5)

Defilement of Dinah (Genesis 34:1-4)

**Summary:** This kind of rape was not uncommon in Canaan at this time. Neither Hamor nor Shechem apologize for the sons' actions and it is seemingly excused by some kind of love for the girl. Dinah's trauma is completely ignored as we continue reading, and the response of her brothers dominates the remainder of the story.

Deceptive negotiations (Genesis 34:5-24)

Ancient Circumcision

**Summary:** When our children wish to engage the culture around them we have an important moment before us. Nothing in this part of the story points to skillful parenting or redemptive actions.

Despicable Revenge (Genesis 34:25-31)

Shechem

**Summary:** The dangers of association are magnified when those associations inform and guide our responses to evil.

**Conclusion:** When spiritual leaders are indifferent to, and fail to act decisively in the face of blatant spiritual defilement those who are immature will take up a cause, and with misguided zeal curse the future.

The internal reaction of Simeon and Levi was correct, but their external actions profaned God's intent. We must never punish evil by personally taking matters into our own hands - this is revenge; something that belongs to God. (Romans 12:17-21)

The Old Testament has examples of aging fathers who lose control of their older sons, Eli, Samuel, David; that Jacob manifests in this chapter. As fathers who have aging children it is important that we remain engaged in the lives of our children such that there is always an open door for communication and instruction without the appearance of hovering or telling a young man what to do. This is the nature of mentoring that leads to Godly maturity.