

SELFISH CHOICES IN SEXUAL SIN

**Genesis 34
(Shechem Shook'em)**

I. THE CHOICE TO EXPOSE OURSELVES TO MORAL COMPROMISE

‡ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land.

THE CHOICE TO COMPROMISE OURSELVES TO WORLDLY INFLUENCES

- **Genesis 31:3** Then the Lord said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”
- **Genesis 31:13** I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.’ ”
- **Genesis 33:18** And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city

THE CHOICE TO EXPOSE OURSELVES TO TEMPTING CIRCUMSTANCES

- ¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land.



II. THE CHOICE TO SIN AGAINST ANOTHER (2-4)

² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. ³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this girl for my wife.”

THE CHOICE TO LOVE OTHERS OR SELFISHLY ABUSE POWER

- “prince of the land”



THE CHOICE TO RUN FROM OR RESPOND TO TEMPTATION – “SAW”

- **James 1:14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
- **2 Tim 2:22** Flee youthful passions
- **Genesis 39:13** And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house,



THE CHOICE TO STOP PURSUING SIN OR TAKING WHAT DOES NOT BELONG TO US – “SEIZED”

- **James 1:15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
- **I Thessalonians 4:6** That no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter



THE CHOICES WE MAKE WHEN WE SIN

- Each act of sin requires one to ignore the Word of God
- Each act of sexual sin requires one to ignore the individual, spiritual and familial significance of the one sinned against.

THE CHOICE TO HONOR A BROTHER/SISTER OR TO HURT A VICTIM

- “lay”
- “humiliated”



THE CHOICE TO CONFESS OR CONVINC OURSELVES THAT WE DESERVE WHAT WE HAVE TAKEN SINFULLY

- ³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her... ⁴ get me this girl for my wife”



III. THE CHOICES IN RESPONSE TO SIN

Genesis 34:5-31

CHOOSING PASSIVITY OR INDIGNATION (5-7)

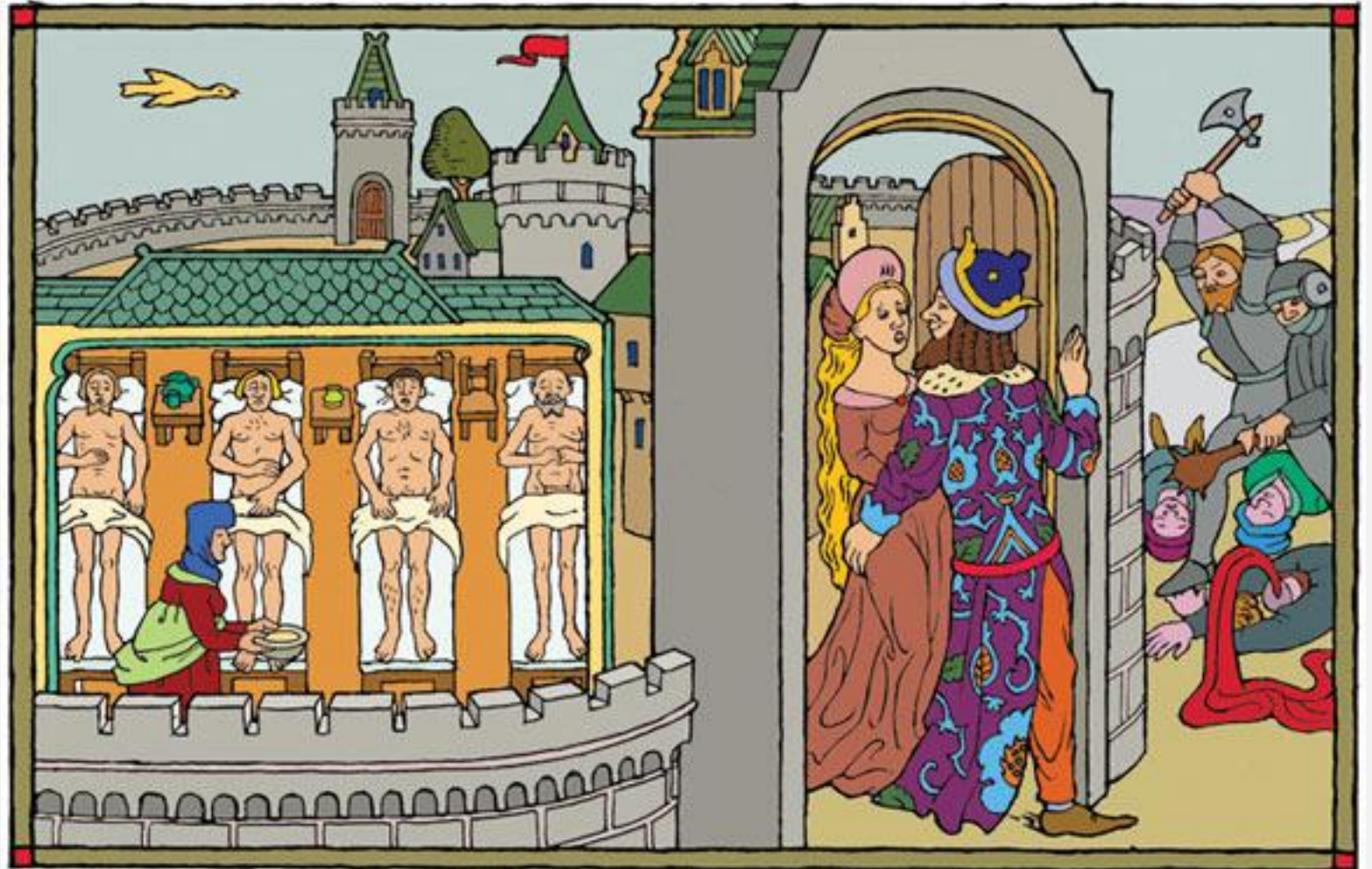
- ⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. ⁶ And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. ⁷ The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

CHOOSING TO RESPOND WITH COVER UP OR CORRECTION (8-14)



CHOOSING GRATIFYING REVENGE OR DIFFICULT FORGIVENESS (15-29)

- Revenge outside authorities
- Excessive reaction
- Deceptive passive aggression
- Dragging God's holiness into our sin



CHOOSING TO PROTECT OUR REPUTATION AND PRIDE OR DOING THE TOUGH THING FOR GOD'S GLORY (30-31)

- ³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household.” ³¹ But they said, “Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?”

CONCLUSION

- Stay out of compromising situations
- Realize every sin is a personal choice
- Take personal responsibility for our sin
- Confess it to God and the one we sinned against
- Reconcile our relationship with God and the injured

FOR THE VICTIM

- Don't blame yourself
- Don't define yourself through what someone did to you but who you are in Christ
- Report it
- Find emotional support through family, friends, church, counselors
- Get a medical exam
- Be willing to forgive – don't imprison yourself with anger and bitterness
- Be patient and hopeful – God will work even our tragedies into good (Rom 8:28)
- Move forward in life (Gen 41:51; Phil 3:8-13)