

Let's Worship God

13th-18th February 2023
Genesis



Genesis

YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS HERE

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Monday - Genesis 33:5-15 - Reconciled at Last

Jacob has approached his brother Esau with great dread. This is the brother who has wanted to kill Jacob for tricking their father out of giving Esau the inheritance. Jacob has sent on huge gifts of animals to Esau to try to win him over, but he is still nervous about the upcoming meeting. But when they see each other, all is forgotten and, through the grace of God, these enemies are reconciled.

When Esau asks about his family, Jacob takes the opportunity to speak of all God has graciously done for him in providing him with the gift of children. Even though he has a large family to provide for, Jacob sees each and every one of these children as a blessing from the Lord.

Esau modestly refuses the generous gift Jacob has given him. He is content with what he has and needs nothing more. Even though Jacob originally gave it to him through fear, he now urges Esau to take the gift because of his great love that he has for his brother. Jacob sees that God has answered his prayers and given him back the friendship of his brother. He knows that God has dealt better with him than he deserves.

Esau offers to go along with Jacob. These brothers have never gotten along so well! God, in whose hands all hearts are, is able to make the strongest friends out of the bitterest enemies. We should be encouraged from this to pray continually for God to change hearts of those around us.

Jacob wants to take care of his family, and he doesn't want Esau to have to wait for them. He knows that he has the protection of God, and this is all he needs.

Questions

1. How does Esau greet Jacob?
2. How does Jacob describe his family?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for our children.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

“Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” Genesis 33:11a

Praise: Psalm 139 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Tuesday - Genesis 33:16-20 - The God of Israel

Jacob has kindly refused Esau's offer of company and protection. He knows Esau has his own family and work to attend to, and he doesn't want to hold him back. Perhaps, he also realises that a little distance might help this new friendship between him and his brother to continue. So, Esau returns to his own home, and Jacob travels on to a place called Succoth, which means 'shelters', where he settles for awhile.

Finally, Jacob comes at last to Shechem, a city in Canaan. God has kept His promise and brought Jacob back to his homeland - a land God has promised to one day give to his descendants. God has protected and led Jacob through many dangers and troubles, and now Jacob's heart must have been overwhelmed with thanksgiving to the God who has kept him safe. Even though this land will one day belong to his descendants, that time has not come yet, so Jacob is more than happy to buy a field to avoid trouble with those living there.

Jacob builds an altar in thankfulness to God for His providential care of him. He isn't content with just saying how good God has been to him, he wants to make a lasting memorial to it. If we are thankful for God's goodness to us, we should respond in more ways than just with our mouths. We should be obedient in our lives out of gratitude and love for what God has done. Jacob also wants to keep up the worship of God in his family, and this altar will enable him to do so and to teach his children of who God is and what God has done. He names this altar, 'God, the God of Israel'. This is his declaration to the world that God is his God, and Jacob who is Israel, will follow Him.

Questions

1. What does Succoth mean?
2. Why does Jacob buy a field?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's care of us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Genesis 33:11a

Praise: Psalm 140 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 34:1-5 - Trouble

Jacob has bought land from the people of Shechem and settled down outside their city. He has done all he can to ensure that there is nothing but good relations between him and these people, but he also has maintained a distance from them as they are unbelievers. He doesn't want an unbelieving influence in his family. But despite the fact that Jacob has treated them honourably, one of the leaders of the city completely dishonours Jacob and his family by raping his daughter.

Dinah is possibly Jacob's only daughter. She must have been incredibly precious and special to her family. However, they don't seem to guard her as well as they should, for they allow her to build up close friendships with the unbelieving girls of Shechem. Jacob has been so careful to keep his family outside this unbelieving city, but then he lets his daughter go and visit the girls in the city. We have to be really careful of the influence that unbelievers can have on us and on our children and realise the dangers that can come from surrounding ourselves with those who don't love and serve God.

The man who has raped Dinah, Shechem (he has the same name as the city he lives in), now wants to marry her. So, he goes to his father, the city ruler, and asks him to get him Dinah as his wife. But when Jacob hears the news, he says nothing, perhaps overcome with grief, and waits to speak to his sons.

Questions

1. How has Jacob treated the people of Shechem?
2. Why might Dinah have been unwise in what she did?
3. What does Shechem want his father to do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our covenant children will build strong friendships with each other.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Genesis 33:11a

Praise: Psalm 141 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 34:6-17 - Lies

Shechem has treated Jacob and his family shamefully, but now he does not even go to Jacob himself to ask for Dinah. Instead, he asks his father to go and clean up the situation by making peaceful overtures to Jacob. Hamor offers that the family of Israel and the people of Shechem intermarry and become as one tribe. Shechem is willing to pay anything to get what he wants. Strangely enough Jacob doesn't seem to want to deal with the matter, but he turns the answer of the family completely over to his sons.

Dinah's brothers are furious at how these men have disgraced and hurt their sister. But they aren't the sons of Jacob and grandsons of Laban for nothing, and they disguise their anger with lies. Instead of asking God what to do and praying that God will judge these evil men of Shechem, they take matters into their own hands and come up with their own sinful solution.

Jacob's sons pretend to go along with Hamor's proposal that the two families unite - even though this goes against God's command that His people are not to intermarry with unbelieving Canaanites. They make one requirement - the Shechemites must be circumcised. They don't explain that circumcision is the sign that they are part of God's family - His special people who believe in Him, and that unbelievers have no business being circumcised unless they have become believers. Instead, they make it sound like a family custom. These brothers really don't care if the Shechemites are circumcised or not - it's all part of their bigger plan of revenge.

Questions

1. What does Hamor propose?
2. How do Dinah's brothers feel about the Shechemites?
3. What do they tell the Shechemites to do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would look to God for solutions to our problems.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Genesis 33:11a

Praise: Psalm 142 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Friday - Genesis 34:18-24 - Agreement

Hamor, the ruler of Shechem, has proposed to the Israelites that they intermarry and become as one tribe. Jacob's sons have answered deceitfully that they will agree to this on one condition - the Shechemites must be circumcised. Hamor and Shechem agree to this, thinking it is nothing more than a cultural and religious tradition - something essentially meaningless, that will make these men happy and get the Shechemites what they want. Many who know very little about Christianity are happy enough to go along to church, thinking that the worship service they are part of means very little other than a cultural tradition.

Hamor and Shechem get the agreement of the men of the city who are willing to do this thing when they see the advantages in it for them. It is bad enough to be married for the sake of gaining more wealth, but it is even worse to be circumcised for the purpose of getting richer. Many pretend to be interested or involved in Christianity just for what they can get out of it, whether a good reputation, lots of friends, or just a good feeling. We can be sure that God who knows the hearts of men is not pleased with those who pretend to love Him, but really they love only themselves.

Questions

1. What did the Shechemites want?
2. What did the Israelites require?
3. Did the Shechemites agree and why?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be honest and not pretend to love God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” Genesis 33:11a

Praise: Psalm 143 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Genesis 34:25-31 - Revenge!

The time has come for Dinah's brothers to carry out their revenge. They have waited until they can be sure of victory, and then Simeon and Levi, two of Dinah's brothers, carry out their terrible plan, killing all the men of Shechem, especially Hamor and Shechem his son with whom they pretended to be friendly.

If the Shechemites had chosen to be circumcised through belief in the true God and a desire to obey Him, there is no doubt but that God would have protected them in their obedience. But they were only being circumcised to enrich themselves and cannot depend on God's protection. God will not protect or care for those who only pretend to love and serve Him. But He is always caring for those who put their trust in Him.

Simeon and Levi have acted in a very unrighteous way. It is true that Shechem has done a terribly sinful thing in the rape of their sister, but they ought to have asked God how to deal with the situation instead of taking matters into their own hands. Why should the entire town be put to death for what one man has done? But worst of all in Simeon and Levi's response is the treachery and deceitfulness involved and the carelessness with which they treated the holy practice of circumcision.

The actions of Jacob's children are a source of grief to him. Children's sins should always make their parents sad. Jacob's family have ruined their reputation of honest and peaceable people, and they have opened themselves up to attack. When we sin, we dishonour the name of Christ and bring the Church under attack.

Questions

1. What do Simeon and Levi do?
2. Why was this wrong?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Genesis 33:11a

Praise: Psalm 144 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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