

Life Lessons from Dinah

Various Scriptures

"Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah." -Genesis 30:21 NKJV

While most people are familiar with the stories of Jacob's 12 sons, how they came about and what their tribes accomplished, many of us however overlook the story and struggle of his only daughter Dinah. In preparing for this study, let's _____ that we would not only internalize the reality of the pain inflicted on the family but also take the appropriate actions to protect our own sons and daughters respectfully.

Did you know?

- *Dinah's name means _____ or artistically formed.
- *Dinah was a _____ child. (10 older brothers and 2 younger brothers)
- *Dinah was a victim of _____ abuse.
- *She is the _____ of Jacob's children to be given major narrative attention.
- *Her story is told in Genesis 34

As we consider Dinah's story we all should ask ourselves, are our girls getting everything they need to prevent family trauma, neglect or sexual abuse?

Statistics show....

- *Middle children are often _____, _____ and _____ because of their birth order.
- * 1 in 4 women are sexually abused in their lifetime.
- *Every _____ minutes someone is sexually abused.

Do you know of friend or family member who has been or is being neglected or abused? What are some ways that you have helped or are helping them?

Supportive Scriptures: Psalm 10:14; Isaiah 54:14; John 14:27

Dinah's Plight

Not only was Dinah the only girl sibling but she also grew up in the middle of a struggle/rivalry between two sisters married to the same man.

**As you consider her dynamic, what are some things you think she longed for?
Genesis 34:1**

While she was out and about visiting with some other young women who lived in the area, verses 2-3 tells us Shechem, the son of Hamor the Hivite, saw Dinah, seized her and _____ her. It was only after he raped her that he fell in love, tried to win her over, and even asked his father to get Dinah for him so that he could _____ her.

It is **NEVER** acceptable to kidnap and rape women because they are attractive and or the person lacks self-control. Unfortunately, that was Shechem's approach and the approach of many people today. These people insist on forcing their will on defenseless women despite one's family, personal privacy or dignity.

What does Jacob do? Genesis 34:5-12

When he finds out.... verses 5-7; He did _____ and said _____.

When Hamor and Schechem came into his presence.... verses 8-20; He said and did _____.

Where is the justice for Dinah?

Oftentimes parents find various reasons to justify or make _____ as to why they don't get involved or demand justice for their children but saying and doing nothing should **NEVER** be an option.

Why do you think Jacob was silent? What would you have done if it were your daughter?

What does Jacob's sons do? Genesis 34:13-20; 24-29

*They talked deceitfully, by making Hamor and Schechem believe if all of their men circumcised themselves that they would accept the marriage and join in with them. Verses 13-20

*They acted with violence, by killing all of the men and plundering all of their flocks, wealth, women and children. Verses 24-29

Does the Bible condone this? Is there ever a time when God tells us to be angry and sin? _____.

Psalm 4:4; Ephesians 4:31-32; James 1:20

Jacob speaks up, but it is against the actions of his sons.... Genesis 34:30-31

His sons respond, "Why should we let him treat our sister like a prostitute?"

What does God do?

Jacob's solution didn't work because he was too quiet, his son's solution didn't work because it brought danger to the family, but what about God?

Obviously God does not condone their behavior but He does however provide a way out. Genesis 35:1-3

*He commanded Jacob to get up, go to Bethel, settle and build an altar to God; This was the original place where Jacob met God. He calmed his fears and gave Jacob the confidence to move forward.

So it is with us, Bethel is that personal space and place where God becomes _____ to us and the Bible becomes so alive that you know God is speaking to you. Wherever your Bethel is settle down, dwell there and experience the presence of God! Worship the Lord your God who has provided your needs, brought you out, and calmed your fears. Whenever you find yourself in a place of fear and anxiety get up and go to Bethel.

How has this lesson helped you? What will you do differently as a result of this encounter with God's Word?

“In Fellowship alone to God, with faith, draw near, approach His courts, besiege His throne with all the power of prayer” -Charles Wesley