**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Twenty Four**

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**Dinah raped by Shechem.- Shechem wants to marry Dinah – Requests are made for approval of the marriage – Simeon and Levi deceive the men of Shechem and murder them.**

I want to start out by asking each of you why you come to church and why you come to Life Group? Pastor David has said that if you can’t go to a Life Group and to church services to, by all means, go to Life Group. The reason for that is that, in a large church like this, this becomes your church. This is where you have fellowship. These are the people who will be with you in time of trouble and in time of joy.

Do you come EXPECTING God to meet your needs? Do you EXPECT to hear from God through the teaching and through the worship? If you don’t, let me encourage you to. You will get just as much out of Life Group and church as you put into it.

I don’t stand up here every week to try and put on a show. I honestly seek the Lord about what He would have you hear every week. There was a specific time that the Holy Spirit sat down with me at my kitchen table and revealed the call of God on my life. He literally sat with me and led me through the Word of God and spoke to me as he guided me through certain passages of Scripture.

One of the things the Lord told me was, “Build foundations in the people’s lives so that they may be strong and stand and not fall.”

The church has done a very bad job of building foundations on the truths of God’s Word. They have done an excellent job of teaching man’s religious traditions just like the Pharisees and Saducees did in Jesus’ time. Jesus said that the traditions of men make the Word of God of no effect. The Bible also tells us that churches and church leaders will **have a form of Godliness but they will “deny the power thereof.”** **SHAME ON THEM!** What does that mean? It means that they will look religious but there will be NO POWER in anything they do! That is because the Holy Spirit is not backing up there doctrines which are NOT God’s doctrines!

You would not believe how many so called “Christian” leaders and churches will tell you that miracles ceased with the apostles. They will tell you that the spiritual gifts, especially those of tongues and interpretation and prophecy have been done away with. That is all NONSENSE! I heard John McArthur say recently that Apostles and Prophets, two of the five-fold ministry gifts given to us by Jesus Himself have ceased because they were the foundation men and the foundation has been built. Let me tell you some truth! Every new generation has to have the foundation built for them.

When that which is PERFECT has come, tongues WILL cease, the ministry gifts WILL cease and the Bible goes on to tell us that when PERFECT has come, not only will all of those things cease but also KNOWLEDGE will CEASE!

HAS KNOWLEDGE CEASED? OF COURSE NOT!

What is “PERFECT?” It is Jesus Christ Himself! Why do we need tongues and interpretation or the gift of prophecy? Because the Church needs timely Words from God. YOU need timely Words from God on how to live your life. Why do we need Apostles and Prophets? Because they ARE the ones who build and strengthen the foundations for every generation of believers!

99 percent of the Church DO NOT KNOW the basic doctrines of Christ! Do you know what they are and where they are found in the Bible?

**Hebrews 6:1-3 (NLT)**

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%206#fen-NLT-30006a)] and placing our faith in God. 2You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

Jacob and Leah’s daughter, Dinah, was about 14 or 15 years old. She went to one of the many festivals in the area. While she was there, Shechem, the son of Hamor who were Hivites, raped Dinah. After that, he fell in love with her.

Jacob found out about the rape but didn’t say anything at first because all of his sons were working in the fields. Shechem went to his father and asked him to get Dinah for him for his wife.

All marriages then were arranged by the families. We live in one of the very few societies where a man and a woman get to actually choose who they will marry. Maybe this is one of the things that has led our nation into thinking it is okay for homosexuals to marry!

When Jacob’s sons came in from the fields and found out what had happened, they were extremely grieved and angry, especially Simeon and Levi. They were the sons of Rachel and Jacob.

**Genesis 34:7 (KJV)**
7  And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard *it*: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done.

This is the first time in the Bible that “Israel” was used collectively of all of Jacob’s family.

Hamor went to Jacob and his sons and talked to them to see if they would let Dinah marry Shechem. Hamor even invited them to intermarry and become part of their lives and their community.

What is wrong with this? God’s people were commanded not to marry outside of the Hebrew race.

Then Shechem went to Jacob and his sons and practically begged them to let him marry Dinah. He said he would pay any dowry that they asked.

**The Dowry**

The modern dowry refers to the value of anything (money, property, etc.) a woman brings to her husband when he marries her, but in ancient times it meant that which was paid for a wife as compensation for giving up the laboring services of a daughter and for the parents' trouble and expense of bringing her up and providing her wants. The dowry could be gifts, services, or anything else of value agreed upon. It was based on the wealth and standing of the bride ([1Sam. 18:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A23)).

In Hebrew weddings (as well as those of many other nations) the dowry held an important place. It sealed the betrothal and all legal agreements. Much negotiation generally went on between the parents of both sides, with a friend of the bridegroom's family handling most of the transaction. He was called "the friend of the bridegroom" ([Jn. 3:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A29)). In later Jewish history a written contract arranged for the nature and size of the dowry.

Jacob worked fourteen years as the dowry for his two wives ([Gen. 29:20-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+29%3A20-30)). Paying dowry for a wife is referred to in [Gen. 34:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+34%3A12); [Ex. 22:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+22%3A16-17); [1Sam. 18:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A25); [Ruth 4:3-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+4%3A3-9). The other meaning (what a woman brings her husband) applies to what Leah said when she had so many sons she exclaimed "God hath endowed me with good dowry" ([Gen. 30:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+30%3A20)).

Six Kinds of Dowry:

1. Gifts from the bridegroom to the bride ([Gen. 24:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+24%3A22),[30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+24%3A30),[53](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+24%3A53); [Ruth 4:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+4%3A10); [Hos. 3:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Hos+3%3A2)). A strange man presented gifts to a strange girl and they were accepted without breaking custom.

2. Gifts from the bridegroom to the parents and other members of the family ([Gen. 24:53](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+24%3A53); [34:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+34%3A12)).

3. Price paid to parents and brothers ([Gen. 34:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+34%3A12); [Ex. 22:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+22%3A17); [1Sam. 18:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A25)). This was the practice of buying wives.

4. Services rendered parents ([Gen. 29:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+29%3A18)).

5. Deeds of valor might be accepted if this was all that was required by parents ([Josh. 15:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+15%3A16); [Judg. 1:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+1%3A12); [1Sam. 18:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A25)).

6. Gifts from the father to a daughter was also called a dowry ([Judg. 1:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+1%3A15); [1Ki. 9:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+9%3A16)).

Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

The Bible tells us that Jacob’s sons responded deceitfully to Shechem and his father. They told them that if they and all the other men there would be circumcised like they were, then Shechem could have Dinah and they would all live together as one.

Shechem and Hamor went to the city elders and pleaded their case and stressed how the Hebrews could become a part of them and they would share their wealth. The city elders agreed and every male in the city was circumcised!

On the third day after the mass circumcision, Simeon and Levi went into town and slaughtered every one of the males there. There were no antibiotics in those days and by the third day all the men were extremely sore and probably dealing with fever and swelling. Obviously Simeon and Levi were helped by their servants and possibly by some of the other sons of Jacob.

We also find something interesting here in Genesis 34:26. Apparently Hamor and Shechem had been holding Dinah hostage in their city because Simeon and Levi set her free and took her home.

When the other brothers of Simeon and Levi found out what they had done, they stormed the city and took whatever they wanted. They took all of the livestock in and around the town and they took everything they could take from the cities and the homes. They also took the women and the little children as their servants.

People did not mess around in those days. As you read the Old Testament, you begin to see just how wicked mankind can be!

**Wealth of the Patriarchs**

God has always willed for His people to be free from poverty, weakness, and sickness, and enjoy an abundance of good things. All the patriarchs were healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Adam was the wealthiest man that ever lived or ever will live. He owned the entire earth and everything in it. He was created to rule the sun, moon, and stars ([Gen. 1:26-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A26-31); [Ps. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+8)). When men inherit the earth again many will share what Adam alone had before the fall.

Abraham was very rich, owning innumerable flocks, herds, and much silver and gold, as well as hundreds of servants ([Gen. 13:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+13%3A2); [14:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+14%3A14)). It would take a wealthy man to support 318 trained soldiers with their wives and children. He is called the father of us all, so if God allowed him to be rich, we need not view our own prosperity as displeasing to God. Abundant life for body, soul, and spirit is promised every man today in Christ ([Mt. 17:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+17%3A20); [21:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+21%3A22); [Mk. 9:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+9%3A23); [11:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+11%3A22-24); [Jn. 10:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A10); [14:12-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A12-15); [15:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A7),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A16); [16:23-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+16%3A23-26)). It is God's will that all His children prosper and be in health, even as their souls prosper ([3Jn. 1:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=3Jn+1%3A2); [Ps. 1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+1%3A3); [23:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+23%3A1); [34:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+34%3A9-10); [84:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+84%3A11)).

Isaac inherited all that Abraham had except portions given the other sons ([Gen. 25:5-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+25%3A5-6)). He added to his wealth all his days, and was considered richer and greater in power than the king of Philistia ([Gen. 26:14-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A14-16)). He became great and possessed flocks, herds, and many servants ([Gen. 26:12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A12-14)).

Jacob inherited the wealth and servants of both Abraham and Isaac, other than the portion given to Esau. He also became very rich in his own right in Haran. As a token of friendship, he gave Esau $97,000 worth of livestock (550 head), saying that it was nothing and he had plenty more ([Gen. 33:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+33%3A11)).

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Jacob was not poor. He was blessed by God just like all the other patriarchs in the Bible. Look at the gifts he gave to Esau when he returned to Canaan.

**Genesis 32:13-15 (NLT)**

13Jacob stayed where he was for the night. Then he selected these gifts from his possessions to present to his brother, Esau: 14200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams, 1530 female camels with their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys, and 10 male donkeys.

This was not the gift of a poor man! Many farmers and ranchers could not give this kind of gift today and still have their business survive!

God wants to bless you SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY!

All of this violence backfired on Simeon and Levi. Look at what Jacob said.

**Genesis 34:30,31 (NLT)**

30Afterward Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have ruined me! You’ve made me stink among all the people of this land—among all the Canaanites and Perizzites. We are so few that they will join forces and crush us. I will be ruined, and my entire household will be wiped out!”

31“But why should we let him treat our sister like a prostitute?” they retorted angrily.

Violence is NEVER the answer. Listen to what Jesus said!

**Luke 6:27-36 (NLT)**

27“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. 31Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

32“If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

35“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.