

the Purpose *and* Promises of God

Worldliness: A Real and Present Danger

Loving the world is a real and present danger for the believer in Jesus. Human nature without God along with the effects of it in daily living take center stage in Genesis 34. The Gospel leads the follower of Christ to a radically different response to evil and the perpetrators of it.

Reflection Questions

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Genesis 34 is no exception to this. What did you learn from Genesis 34? How were you reproofed? What did Genesis 34 reveal to you in your own life that needs correction? How might Genesis 34 spur you on to further training in righteousness?
2. 1 John 2:15-17 specifically gives this command to the follower of Jesus: "Do not love the world or the things in the world." What might be some warning signs do you look for to protect yourself from love for the world creeping into your life? What is the solution for overcoming this love for the world? What do you think loving the world has to do with Genesis 34?
3. Psalm 14:1-3 spells out in grim detail the reality of humanity in its natural state. What are the variations of this message you have heard from those around you? How would you describe total depravity to a friend who is not familiar with the concept? How does total depravity differ from utter depravity? How might you respond to those who want to minimize the total depravity of the heart of an individual? How does Psalm 14 specifically move you toward the Gospel?
4. In Romans 3:10-18 the apostle Paul combines several Old Testament passages about the sinful state of natural humanity. After reading this passage, what are your observations? How does what you read in Romans 3 differ from what you hear and observe around you in your daily life? How does the Gospel overcome the totally depraved state of the human heart? After a person's conversion, what are the necessary steps toward a healthy spiritual growth pattern?
5. In Romans 12:17-21 the apostle Paul gives specific exhortation regarding repaying evil for evil. In light of the Romans 12 passage, what might have been a more just and measured approach to the defilement of Dinah by Shechem?

Notes

1. The Defilement of Dinah, daughter of Leah [vv. 1-4].

2. The Deceptive discourse of the main characters [vv. 4-24].

3. The Depraved development that follows [vv. 25-31].