

# JACOB

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet

## 12. Living amongst the lost

Genesis 34

- An ugly chapter written to show God's people how **not** to live in the world

### 1. **Don't Drop your Guard**

- Wrong priorities leads to a watering down of distinctiveness
- Dinah – too close for comfort. Jacob – not involved in kid's life enough
- Watch out for the subtle attacks more than the big temptations
- “Being casual in relationship to world makes you a casualty”
- Where are we too close to world? Where are our kids too close?

### 2. **Uproot sin before it spreads**

- Everyone here fails to deal with sin in a right way
- **Little sins grow to big consequences – Jacob's favouritism**
  - This sin has consequences for the rest of the history of God's people
- **Your sin isn't just about you – it gets etched into the next generation**
  - Levi & Simeon display same deceitfulness as father
- **What sins do you need to uproot?**

### 3. **Display Christ-likeness in dealing with others' sin**

- Two wrong responses:
  - a) **Jacob's passive acceptance**
    - Buried his head when he should have spoke out – wanted a quiet life
    - Christians are not to ignore injustice and wrong – need to speak out
  - b) **The brothers' aggressive reaction**
    - Note – Dinah is being held hostage – v26
    - Right in their grief and fury – wrong in their actions
    - They dealt with the problem the way the world around them would
    - We are to express ourselves differently - Graciously, firmly, strongly, but with control – without temper, bitterness or aggression
    - Remember: we haven't been treated by God as we deserve – mercy & grace
    - Remember: God will vindicate us and bring justice
    - This frees us to obey Jesus, “do good to those who hate you, pray for them” (Lk 6:27) - But this isn't possible ourselves!

### 4. **Only God's grace can triumph over sin**

- God doesn't wipe out Jacob and his family because his grace is going to triumph, and bring good out of their messed up lives
- That's our only hope for change - God's grace found in Jesus
- Who pays for their wrong? God will bear the punishment himself
- In Jesus we find the motivation, strength & hope to do what Jacob & sons didn't do; to live distinctly and react appropriately and be a witness



**n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p**

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 23rd November 08

### Notices

- Sab 23<sup>rd</sup> Evening meeting in Mark & Judith's 8pm  
Discussion time - How do we apply this morning sermon about reacting in difficult situations?
- Tue Discussion on chapter on Evangelism from Total Church (photocopied)  
Robert & Judith's 8pm
- Wed 26<sup>th</sup>-Sab 30<sup>th</sup> Wed-Sat @ 8pm  
Outreach Services in Bready Sab @ 7pm  
Theme “Our sufficient Saviour” - Speaker Rev. Philip Murphy
- Sab 30<sup>th</sup> Mark will be preaching in Ballyclare  
Service here will be taken by Nathan Hawthorne  
If you you are able to provide lunch for Nathan please speak to Mark

### Christianity Explored

A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 7th - Genesis 35

Opening Psalm: 89:18-23

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