

# 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



#### 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

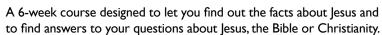
Theme "Our sufficient Saviour" - Speaker Rev. Philip Murphy

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



- 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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