

Favoritism > Genesis 34:1-31

34:1-4 The story of Jacob’s favoritism begins with Dinah, daughter of Leah (the unloved of Jacob’s two wives). She is spending time apart from her family and ends up being assaulted and humiliated by the local ruler, Shechem.

34:5-17 Upon hearing this news, Jacob does nothing. Shechem and his father Hamor come to Jacob with a plan for their two peoples to intermarry. Once Jacob’s sons learn of what happened to Dinah, they appear in the story – responding with anger to what has happened to their sister – and deceitfully come up with a plan to pretend to give in to Hamor’s ideas of intermarrying between their two peoples.

34:18-29 The actual plan, however, involves Simeon and Levi murdering all of the men of Shechem, and then the other brothers raiding the town.

34:30-31 Only now does Jacob break his silence, and his concerns still aren’t for Dinah. The chapter ends with his personal worries pitted against the brothers’ concern for Dinah’s honor.

Context: Jacob has gotten by in life through favoritism and deceit, however those sinful traits will come back to harm his family in this story.

Aim: The Lord remains at work in this family despite their sins. His promise is greater than their rebellion.

Gospel: Jesus gives us grace even though we don’t deserve it.

Applications: How are you following after Christ when it comes to favoritism? Are you living in the Gospel way?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
