

## STUDY THIRTY

# TO ACT JUSTLY

## Genesis 34

### Introduction

Jacob and his large family and vast flocks and herds must have been quite a large group moving from place to place across country into Canaan. Perhaps many of the local people would have been afraid of them moving into their territory. Twenty years before Jacob had made a promise to return to Bethel where he had had a vision of the Lord. But he does not go there straight away. This mistake had terrible consequences.

### Questions For Discussion

1.a) Where had Jacob settled with his family? (See Gen. 33:18-19)

b) Why did he not go on to Bethel where he had first met God?

2.a) What did Shechem do to Dinah?

b) What did his father Hamor think about Shechem's sin?

c) What does this tell us about the people of that city?

3.a) How did Jacob react when he heard what had happened to his daughter (vv.5 & 30)?

b) Was this the right way to react?

c) How should he have reacted?

d) How might this incident have been avoided?

4.a) What was Hamor's offer to Jacob's family (vv.8-10)?

b) What would have happened to the people of Israel if they had followed Hamor's advice?

c) Why is it important that they did not follow his advice? (See Gen. 12:1-3)

5.a) In what way did Jacob's sons talk to Shechem and his father (v.13)?

b) From whom had they learned deceit?

c) Do our past sins have an ongoing effect even after they have been forgiven?

6.a) How did Simeon and Levi punish Shechem's sin (vv.25-29)?

b) Was their act of judgment just?

c) How should we react when we are sinned against? (See Ex. 21:23-25, Mi. 6:8, Mt. 5:38-42 & Ro. 12:17-21)

### **For Further Thought And Action**

Think about a bad situation in your family, church or neighbourhood, where prompt action might help avoid further sin.

### **Memory Verse**

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Romans 12:21