

"Jacob Moves to Shechem"

Genesis 33:18-34:2

Vs. 18-20 Jacob moves to Shechem. But was that God's will for him? (see Gen. 35:1)

1. **Be VERY careful, no matter where you go or what you do, to acknowledge God in all your ways.** (18a)

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart & do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, & He will make your paths straight.

- A. If God is your God (El-Elohe-YOUR NAME HERE) you are by the very title you go by a God *Follower*. (He's in front, your in back.)
 - I. God was still teach Israel this CRITICALLY IMPORTANT BIBLICAL CONCEPT 450 yrs. later. (Pillar of Cloud by day and Fire by night.)

READ EXODUS 13:17-22

READ DEUTERONOMY 1:2, 29-33

READ EXODUS 40:34-38

- II. The Pillars are a foreshadowing (or a picture) of a life led by the Holy Spirit in N.T. times.

Romans 8:14

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:18

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 16:13

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- B. The essence of Proverbs 3:5-6 is HUMILITY. God will hear and respond to the humble person who admits they don't know the right way to go and who CONSTANTLY PLEAD for God to show them.

2. **Look out for the Law of Compromise in your life.** (18b-19)

- A. Because of your tendency towards self and away from God (*Each of us is born with this horrible tendency. It's called the sinful nature or the flesh*) be on guard against series' of moral compromises in your life.
 - I. Small steps towards self & sin are our constant battle each day. (*This is a good sign you're on the right path.*)
 - II. However, if you leave small steps unchecked you'll soon be very far off the right path.

Hebrews 2:1

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

- B. Remember Lot?

3. Beware of doing your own will in the Name of Christ. (20)

A. My worship can be misplaced if I'm not careful. (*Unfortunately we humans are good at this.*)

Isaiah 48:1

*Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are named Israel and who came forth from the loins of Judah, who swear by the name of the Lord and invoke the God of Israel, **but not in truth nor in righteousness.***

I. We are very good at doing our own will while claiming it's God's.

B. Taking the LORD's Name in vain (Ex. 20:7) was to use God's Name frivolously and without honor. It was to say something was God's will when it was not.

I. We should be very careful how we use the Name of God.

II. We should be very careful when we say something is His will (*in His Name*) when it isn't.

III. We can easily fall into the same trap of "*swearing by the Name of LORD...but not in truth nor in righteousness.*"

4. All of these warnings are not meant to keep you alone safe. (Ch. 34:1-2)

A. When you neglect acknowledging the Lord in all your ways, the Law of Compromise, and when you do your own will while claiming it's God's you put your AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD in grave danger.

I. That's why this simple message is so important, so critical to your walk with Christ and safety.

B. Domino effects are a real phenomenon in life.

Wikipedia on The Domino Effect:

"The domino effect is a chain reaction that occurs when a small change causes a similar change nearby, which then causes another similar change, and so on in linear sequence... It typically refers to a linked sequence of events where the time between successive events is relatively small." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domino_effect

Close: You can read the rest of Ch. 34 this week and find out in what other ways the Domino Effect brings about deep troubles in Jacob's life and family because of his small mistake of moving to Shechem.