



Lesson 20 – The Return to Canaan

Based on Genesis 34, 35, 37

- 1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Genesis 33:18 And Jacob came to _____, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.

- 2) What did he do as a first order of business?

Genesis 33:19-20 And he _____ a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an _____, and called it Elelohe-Israel.

“God, the God of Israel.” Like Abraham, Jacob set up beside his tent an altar unto the Lord, calling the members of his household to the morning and the evening sacrifice. It was here also that he dug a well also.

- 3) What descendant of Jacob would visit the well later?

John 4:5-6 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called _____, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there.

_____ therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

- 4) What did Jesus tell the woman at the well there?

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into _____.

- 5) What happened in Shalem?

Genesis 34:1-2 And _____ the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and _____ her.

- 6) What did Shechem request of the Israelites?

Genesis 34:8-10 And Hamor communed with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him to _____. And make ye _____ with us, and give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you. And ye shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and _____ ye therein, and get you possessions therein.

- 7) How does this story end?

Genesis 34:25 And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, _____ and _____, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

Genesis 34:26-27 And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the _____, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out. The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and _____ the city, because they had defiled their sister.

The one daughter of the household had been brought to shame and sorrow, two brothers were involved in the guilt of murder, a whole city had been given to ruin and slaughter, in retaliation for the lawless deed of one rash youth. The beginning that led to results so terrible was the act of Jacob's daughter, who **“went out to see the daughters of the land,”** thus venturing into association with the ungodly. He who seeks pleasure among those that fear not God is placing himself on Satan's ground and inviting his temptations.



- 8) What did Jacob have to say about it when he found out?

Genesis 34:30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to _____ among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

- 9) After praying for guidance, what did they do?

Genesis 35:1-2 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to _____, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the _____ that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

Jacob felt that there was cause for deep humiliation. Cruelty and falsehood were manifest in the character of his sons. There were false gods in the camp, and idolatry had to some extent gained a foothold even in his household. Should the Lord deal with them according to their deserts, would He not leave them to the vengeance of the surrounding nations?

- 10) What happened next?

Genesis 35:4-5 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob _____ them under the oak which was by Shechem. And they journeyed: and the _____ of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

With deep emotion Jacob repeated the story of his first visit to Bethel, when he left his father's tent a lonely wanderer, fleeing for his life, and how the Lord had appeared to him in the night vision. As he reviewed the wonderful dealings of God with him, his own heart was softened, his children also were touched by a subduing power; he had taken the most effectual way to prepare them to join in the worship of God when they should arrive at Bethel.

- 11) The family would move again, what happened on the trip?

Genesis 35:16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and _____ travailed, and she had hard labour.

Genesis 35:18-19 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she _____) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him _____. And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

Before her death Rachel gave birth to a second son. With her parting breath she named the child Benoni, "son of my sorrow." But his father called him Benjamin, "son of my right hand," or "my strength." Rachel was buried where she died, and a pillar was raised upon the spot to perpetuate her memory.

- 12) What further deed troubled Jacob's life?

Genesis 35:22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that _____ went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

- 13) Where did Jacob's journeys end?

Genesis 35:27-28 And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned. And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.

- 14) What happened there?

Genesis 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and _____, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.



Jacob and Esau met at the deathbed of their father. Once the elder brother had looked forward to this event as an opportunity for revenge, but his feelings had since greatly changed. And Jacob, well content with the spiritual blessings of the birthright, resigned to the elder brother the inheritance of their father's wealth, the only inheritance that Esau sought or valued. They were no longer estranged by jealousy or hatred, yet they parted, Esau removing to Mount Seir. God, who is rich in blessing, had granted to Jacob worldly wealth, in addition to the higher good that he had sought. The possessions of the two brothers ***“were more than that they might dwell together; and the land wherein they were strangers could not bear them because of their cattle.”*** This separation was in accordance with the divine purpose concerning Jacob. Since the brothers differed so greatly in regard to religious faith, it was better for them to dwell apart.

15) What did Jesus tell us?

Matthew 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath _____ life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may _____ in through the gates into the city.

There was no arbitrary choice on the part of God by which Esau was shut out from the blessings of salvation. The gifts of His grace through Christ are free to all. There is no election ***but one's own*** by which any may perish. God has set forth in His word the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life, obedience to His commandments, through faith in Christ. God has elected a character in harmony with His law, and anyone who shall reach the standard of His requirement will have an entrance into the kingdom of glory.

Every soul is elected who will work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. He is elected who will put on the armor and fight the good fight of faith. He is elected who will watch unto prayer, who will search the Scriptures, and flee from temptation. He is elected who will have faith continually, and who will be obedient to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The provisions of redemption are free to all; the results of redemption will be enjoyed by those who have complied with the conditions.

16) What does the Bible record about Jacob's son Joseph?

Genesis 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his _____...

Joseph, whose rare personal beauty seemed but to reflect an inward beauty of mind and heart. Pure, active, and joyous, the lad gave evidence also of moral earnestness and firmness. He listened to his father's instructions and loved to obey God.

17) What did Jacob give to Joseph?

Genesis 37:3 ...and he made him a _____ of many colours..

The father's injudicious gift to Joseph of a costly coat, or tunic, such as was usually worn by persons of distinction, seemed to them another evidence of his partiality, and excited a suspicion that he intended to pass by his elder children, to bestow the birthright upon the son of Rachel.

18) What added to their jealousy?

Genesis 37:5-7 And Joseph dreamed a _____, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made _____ to my sheaf.



19) Were his brothers elated over that?

Genesis 37:8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed _____ over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

20) What came next?

Genesis 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the _____ and the moon and the eleven _____ made obeisance to me.

21) What did Jacob say to that?

Genesis 37:10-11 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father _____ him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren _____ him; but his father observed the saying.

As the lad stood before his brothers, his beautiful countenance lighted up with the Spirit of inspiration, they could not withhold their admiration; but they did not choose to renounce their evil ways, and they hated the purity that reproved their sins. The same spirit that actuated Cain was kindling in their hearts.

The brothers were obliged to move from place to place to secure pasturage for their flocks, and frequently they were absent from home for months together. After the circumstances just related, they went to the place which their father had bought at Shechem. Some time passed, bringing no tidings from them, and the father began to fear for their safety, on account of their former cruelty toward the Shechemites. He therefore sent Joseph to find them and bring him words as to their welfare. Had Jacob known the real feeling of his sons toward Joseph, he would not have trusted him alone with them; but this they had carefully concealed.

With a joyful heart, Joseph parted from his father, neither the aged man nor the youth dreaming of what would happen before they should meet again.

22) Were the Eleven happy to see him?

Genesis 37:19-20 And they said one to another, Behold, this _____ cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some _____, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

His brothers saw him approaching; but no thought of the long journey he had made to meet them, of his weariness and hunger, of his claims upon their hospitality and brotherly love, softened the bitterness of their hatred. The sight of the coat, the token of their father's love, filled them with frenzy.

23) Did they ALL want to kill him?

Genesis 37:22 And _____ said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him _____ of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

24) What did they do?

Genesis 37:23-24 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his _____, his coat of many colours that was on him; And they took him, and cast him into a _____: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:27-28 Come, and let us _____ him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of _____: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.



As he saw the merchants the dreadful truth flashed upon him. To become a slave was a fate more to be feared than death. In an agony of terror, he appealed to one and another of his brothers, but in vain. Some were moved with pity, but fear of derision kept them silent; all felt that they had now gone too far to retreat. If Joseph were spared, he would doubtless report them to the father, who would not overlook their cruelty toward his favorite son. Steeling their hearts against his entreaties, they delivered him into the hands of the heathen traders. The caravan moved on and was soon lost to view.

25) When Reuben returned to the pit to rescue Joseph, what did he find?

Genesis 37:29-30 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he _____ his clothes. And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I _____?

Upon learning the fate of Joseph, and that it would now be impossible to recover him, Reuben was induced to unite with the rest in the attempt to conceal their guilt.

26) What was their plan?

Genesis 37:31-32 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the _____; And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's _____ or no.

27) What did Jacob do?

Genesis 37:34-35 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put _____ upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the _____ unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

The young men, terrified at what they had done, yet dreading their father's reproaches, still hid in their own hearts the knowledge of their guilt, which even to themselves seemed very great.

Can you see how dangerous a sinful heart can be?

Would you like to face the deceptions you created?

When is the time to follow God only?