

# Why is this man like the Bible ?

Before



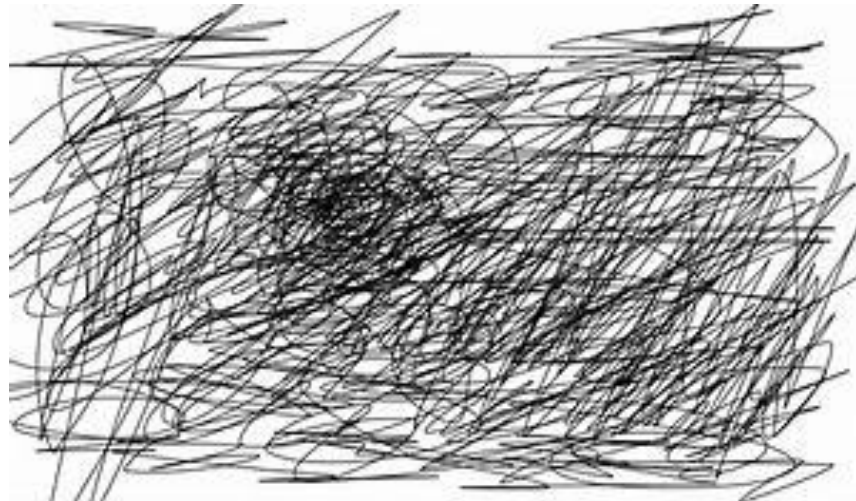
After



# What a mess!

## Genesis Chapter 34

WRONG + WRONG  $\neq$  RIGHT



Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the women of the land. v.1

A 16 year-old country girl goes to town



When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the ruler of that area, saw her, he took her and raped her. v.2

Taken in full view of others ?  
Powerful people think they can do what they like.



His heart was drawn to Dinah daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her. And Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Get me this girl as my wife." v 4

**Now it's more than physical attraction ?**



The oldest son ? I want !  
Does dad know what he's done ?

When Jacob heard that his daughter Dinah had been defiled, his sons were in the fields with his livestock; so he kept quiet about it until they came home. v 5

## On your own with bad news



Then Shechem`s father Hamor went out to talk with Jacob. v 6

**Dad to sort things out man to man**



Now Jacob`s sons had come in from the fields as soon as they heard what had happened. They were filled with grief and fury, because Shechem had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob`s daughter--a thing that should not be done. v 7



**It was wrong what Shechem did !**

Note: (Israel – 1<sup>st</sup> collective use)



But Hamor said to them, "My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife. Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for yourselves. You can settle among us; the land is open to you. Live in it, trade in it, and acquire property in it." v 8-10

## A deal ?

An arranged marriage  
Political, business possibilities  
(no mention about the crime)



Then Shechem said to Dinah`s father and brothers, "Let me find favour in your eyes, and I will give you whatever you ask. Make the price for the bride and the gift I am to bring as great as you like, and I`ll pay whatever you ask me. Only give me the girl as my wife."  
v 11-12

Shechem turns up but offers no apology

Money is the answer  
to the rich man



Because their sister Dinah had been defiled, Jacob`s sons replied deceitfully as they spoke to Shechem and his father Hamor. v 13

**Anger** → **Sin**



**They pretend to negotiate  
Where did they learn to deceive?**

They said to them, "We can't do such a thing; we can't give our sister to a man who is not circumcised. That would be a disgrace to us. We will give our consent to you on one condition only.. that you become like us by circumcising all your males. Then we will give you our daughters and take your daughters for ourselves. We'll settle among you and become one people with you. But if you will not agree to be circumcised, we'll take our sister and go."



**Ok, on one  
condition**

It's a wicked misuse  
of the sacred sign

# It's a strange thing.

God wanted this family to be separate from the nations  
**BUT**  
this was not the way he wanted them to go about it.



Their proposal seemed good to Hamor and his son Shechem. The young man, who was the most honored of all his father`s household, lost no time in doing what they said, because he was delighted with Jacob`s daughter. So Hamor and his son Shechem went to the gate of their city to speak to their fellow townsmen. v18



The practice was not just limited to Jews  
– so it may sound more harsh to us now, but maybe not then

Hamor willing to accept the condition  
Shechem keen to get married to Dinah

But they need to consult the townsmen

"These men are friendly toward us," they said. "Let them live in our land and trade in it; the land has plenty of room for them. We can marry their daughters and they can marry ours. But the men will consent to live with us as one people only on the condition that our males be circumcised, as they themselves are. Won't their livestock, their property and all their other animals become ours? So let us give our consent to them, and they will settle among us." v21-23



Tell them the political, economic deal.  
Omit the real personal interest.  
They appeal to "What do we get out of this?"

All the men who went out of the city gate agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male in the city was circumcised. v24



**Vote passed - agreed**



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**WARNING!**

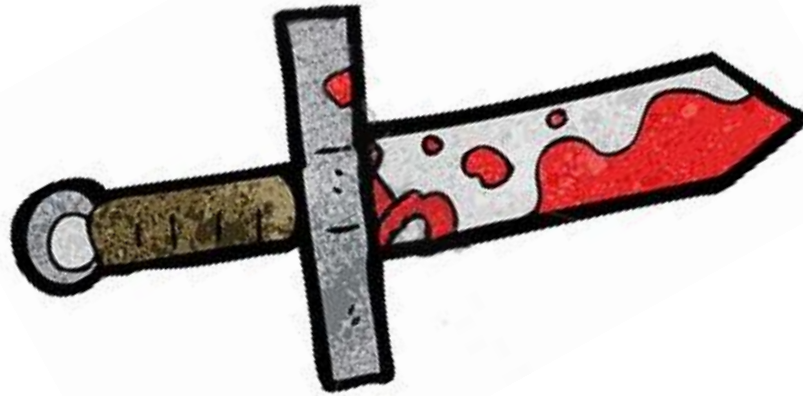
**“Doing the religion”  
doesn’t make you a child of God**



**Contrast this with Ruth’s testimony**

Three days later, while all of them were still in pain, two of Jacob`s sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah`s brothers, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem`s house and left.

v25-26



Premeditated revenge (3 days) time for pain to work

Massacre ! (a whole town for 1 man`s sin !)

Sin multiplied

It`s Wrong !

Dinah snatched back – what would she think?

The sons of Jacob came upon the dead bodies and looted the city where their sister had been defiled. They seized their flocks and herds and donkeys and everything else of theirs in the city and out in the fields. They carried off all their wealth and all their women and children, taking as plunder everything in the houses. v27-29

## Adding to murder



**(Which sons were accomplices – ? )  
What happened to the women and children ?**

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me a stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. v30

## Jacob's rebuke

**You have put us all to shame.**



What about God's reputation !      *(Christians beware !)*

He saves his full criticism of their sin until ch. 49:5-7

We are few in number, and if they join forces against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed." v30

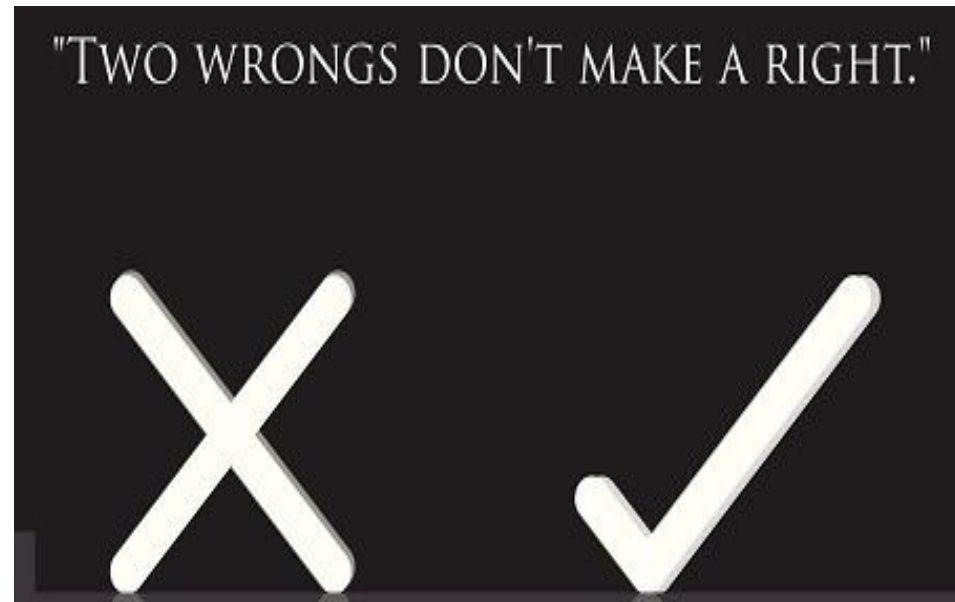


## Jacob's rebuke

**You've put us all at risk.**

What about God's promises ?  
Is there an element of our responsibility ?

But they replied,  
"Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?" v31



**Arrogant cheek**

**No remorse**

**Pride justifying their evil**

**Who appointed them as  
judges?**

Just like with Jacob, God has a lot of work to do on these boys.

# Is God going to bless this lot ?

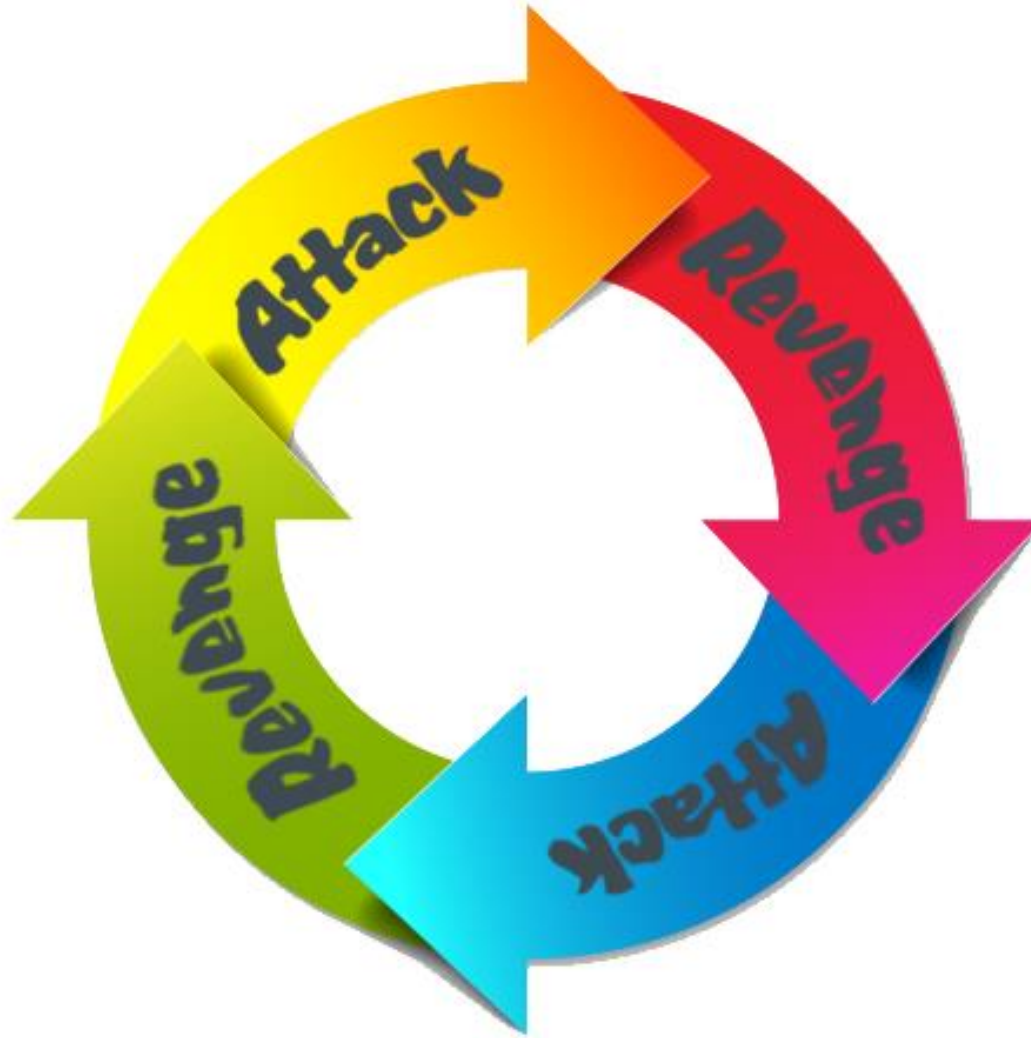


## DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

*It's always funny, till it's yours*

## And if so .... WHY ?

# The Endless Cycle



**What can break it ?**



# What happened to Dinah ?



“I pray you experience the soul-crushing weight of guilt so you may someday experience true repentance and true forgiveness from God, which you need far more than forgiveness from me – though I extend that to you as well.”