

TURNING A BLIND EYE

Dear Friend,

There are some events in the Bible that make you want to scratch your head and say to yourself, “What was he (or she) thinking?” Such is the case in the life of Jacob, on more than one occasion. One such occasion is found in Genesis 34 when Jacob was returning home after 20 years of living with his in-laws. He lived with them in the city of Haran (southeast Turkey) but eventually things were not going well, and God tells Jacob to go back to his homeland and settle in the city of Bethel. So, he packs-up his family, his animals, and all his possessions and heads south toward home. This is where the “head scratching” begins.

On his way home, Jacob and the family stop on the outskirts of a pagan city called Shechem. While camping there, Jacob decides to buy some property and settle there, contrary to God’s directions! Jacob turned a blind eye to God’s directions. Not long after settling in Shechem, the king’s son raped Jacob’s daughter. What was Jacob’s response? Nothing – silent as death. At no point did he defend his daughter’s honor, demand Shechem’s (king’s son’s name too) arrest, or at least instantly pack-up and leave. He did nothing – nada. He turned a blind eye. On the other hand, Jacob’s sons Simeon and Levi (Dinah’s blood brothers) did not turn a blind eye; they made every man in Shechem pay the price for the rape of Dinah. Simeon and Levi murdered every man in the city. How did their father, Jacob, respond toward his sons? He turned a blind eye.

What about us? Do we (are we) turning a blind eye toward something we know is wrong; something we know is sin? Jacob made three decisions that caused him and his family to suffer grief. First: he chose to live in the shadow of sin! God gave him clear instructions to go home – move to Bethel. Instead, he chose to live on the edge of Shechem. Shechem may not have been Sodom or Gomorrah, but its influence had a negative effect on Jacob and his family. Lesson for us: DO NOT “flirt” with sin, do not live in temptation’s neighborhood. Second: Jacob got comfortable with sin. How do we get comfortable with sin? By turning a blind eye. I use this phrase: sin gains a toehold, then a foothold, then a strong hold. It will stop at a toehold if we refuse to allow it to stay in our life. Third: Jacob paid a price for sin. What kind of relationship did he have with his daughter after his reaction to the rape? It is likely there was no relationship. Also, in a sense, the blood of every dead man was on Jacob’s hands. He did nothing about justice for his daughter and he did nothing to control his sons. Jacob paid a price for sin. We all do.

Let’s learn from Jacob: never turn a blind eye to sin; there’s always a price to pay.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Mike

Prayer: Cao Qing (heart surgery), Praise God for Building Fund and Shelter House Goals met, Donna Clickenger (shut-in of the month), Dick Fisher

Events: Management Team Meeting – Monday at 7PM