

Longing for God's Justice

Genesis 34:1-31

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 14th September 2025

1. A terrible crime (v1-4)

Genesis 34v7

Meanwhile, Jacob's sons had come in from the fields as soon as they heard what had happened. They were shocked and furious, because Shechem had done an outrageous thing in Israel by sleeping with Jacob's daughter—a thing that should not be done.

UK Statistics (rapecrisis.org.uk)

- More than 1 in 4 women in the UK have been raped or sexually attacked as an adult.
- The statistic for men is 1 in 18.
- 71,227 rapes were reported to the police last year.
- Less than 3 in every 100 rapes result in anyone being charged in the same year.
- Six out of seven rapes against women are carried out by people that they know.

2. A deceitful plan (v5-24)

The responses:

- Jacob - inaction

Genesis 34v5

When Jacob heard that his daughter Dinah had been defiled, his sons were in the fields with his livestock; so he did nothing about it until they came home.

2. A deceitful plan (v5-24)

The responses:

- Jacob - inaction
- Shechem and Hamor – cover-up and greed
- The sons of Jacob – deceitful scheming

3. A ruthless revenge (v25-31)

Genesis 34v30

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me obnoxious to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed.”

Genesis 34v31

But they replied, “Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?”

Application:

- This is a picture of the world
- God's people are to seek justice

Romans 13v4

For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Application:

- This is a picture of the world
- God's people are to seek justice
- We can trust God to bring about ultimate justice