

Some lessons for us from Genesis 34-37: (this week's Scripture)

Watch where you go and what you do.

What seems like an unimportant action, can bring dire results to family and even innocent people. Dinah went to visit the women of the land, was raped, and caused a city to be annihilated in retribution. The decisions we make also affect those around us.

Dedicated worship helps you handle sorrows on the journey.

God reiterated His promise about the land to Jacob and he dedicated a pillar at Bethel in worship. But there was yet a journey to be made during which Jacob lost his beloved Rebekah, buried her nurse Deborah, and suffered Reuben's betrayal of trust before arriving home to bury his father, Issac. Our life's journey may also be punctuated with sorrow, but God is there to comfort us.

Those in the world may prosper and thrive, but there is a day of judgment coming.

The Edomites were prosperous and many in number but also many in sins. God would not forget how they treated their brothers. A day of judgment would come. We need not be envious of those who seem to "have it all" materially . . . true wealth is a soul that is at peace with God.

Most family units have complications in relationships.

Jacob had a "favorite;" Joseph's brothers had jealousy; Joseph was roughly mistreated; the brothers lied and deceived Jacob. Sounds like a soap opera, doesn't it? For all of us there is some "soap opera" drama that invades our lives from time to time. There is only one way to keep from "circling the drain" . . . trust that God can and will bring good out of bad circumstances and we're going to see Him do for Joseph in our next lesson.

