**Family Secrets – Gen. 34:30, 47:9**

*Then Jacob said, to Simeon and Levi, you have brought trouble on me by making me odious among the inhabitants of the land…few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, not have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning*

**Focal Truth: Jacob trusted God yet was deeply grieved by the sins of his children**

Jacob is shown more favor & forgiveness from God throughout his life – He sins & his children sin!

Jacob’s children and grandchildren lived in open sin

Jacob’s children ‘s sin brought shame, grief & embarrassment to the end of his life

Israel was gracious and patient with his sinful children

**Observations**

1. **Jacob by faith experienced God’s promised blessings – 28:15**

*Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you*

1. Jacob returns with prosperity based on God’s promise – 30:43

*So the man became prosperous*

1. Jacob obeyed God by faith – 31:3

*The Lord said, return to the land of your fathers…I will be with you*

1. Jacob met God and received a new name – Israel – walking with a limp – 32:28

*Your name shall no longer be Jacob but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed*

1. Jacob removed the family idols on the journey home – 35:2

*Jacob said to his household, put away the foreign gods which are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments*

**Consider**

1. Parents must be faithful to teach their children to truths of gospel
2. Parents must live by faith in the presence of their children
3. **Jacob by faith experienced personal loss even with God’s blessing – 35:19**

*So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Bethlehem*

**Consider**

1. Eccl. 7:3 – *sorrow is better than laughter*
2. Eccl. 3 – to everyone it is appointed to live and to die
3. **Jacob by faith lived in grief because of the painful & sinful acts of his children – 34:2**

*When Shechem the prince of the land saw Dinah the daughter of Leah, he took her and lay with her by force*

1. Jacob was deeply grieved by the rape of his daughter – 34:5

*Now Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter…he kept silent*

1. Jacob’s sons murdered the males of the town because of the rape of their sister 34:26 – *they killed Hamor and His son Shechem with the edge of the sword*
2. Jacob rebukes his sons for their murderous acts – 34:30

*You have brought trouble on me by making me odious among the inhabitants of the land*

1. Jacob heard the news of Reuben’s incest with his wife and grieved – 35:22

*While Israel was dwelling inn the land, Reuben went & lay with Bilhah his faither’s wife and Israel heard of it*

1. Jacob’s sons sell Joseph away to slavery & lie to their father about what they had done – 37:33 – *a wild beast has devoured him, Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!*
2. Jacob was painfully grieved by the loss of Joseph *–* 37:35 *– surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son. So his father wept for him*
3. Jacob at the end of his life speaks to his sons about their future – 49:1

*Jacob summoned his sons and said, assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come*

1. Jacob tells Pharoah of his grief though he walked by faith *-* 47:9

*The years of my sojourning are few and unpleasant have been the years of my life*

**Consider**

1. Pr. 10:1 – *a wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother*
2. Pr. 17:25 – *a foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to his mother*
3. Nothing is more painful than the lies of children to their parents!

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Every child is a sinner who must be saved by the grace of God
2. God gives endurance to parents in their grief over their children – Heb. 10:36

*You have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised*

1. Trust God when your children live in sin!
2. Wait on God to do His work in their life!
3. Godly parents let your light shine so that you children will see your good works and glorify God!

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**