

“Concerning Assimilation...”

Jacob (Part 16)

“So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, ‘The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.’” (Numbers 13:32)

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...” (Romans 12:2)

Wrong Responses:

(1) Laissez Faire Loitering

Genesis 34:1-4 – (1) Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. (2) And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. (3) And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. (4) So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, ‘Get me this girl for my wife.’”

(2) Lethal Legalism

Genesis 34:13-17, 25-31 – (13) “The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. (14) They said to them, ‘We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. (15) Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. (16) Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. (17) But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone.’”

(25) “On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. (26) They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house and went away. (27) The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. (28) They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. (29) All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives,

all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered. (30) Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, ‘You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household.’ (31) But they said, ‘Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?’”

(3) Limp Leadership

Genesis 34:5-6 – (5) “Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. (6) And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.”

How shall I respond to the Assimilative World?

(1) Be Led by the Holy Spirit

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:13)

(2) Be Ok with some Ignorance

“For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.” (Romans 16:19-20)

(3) Trust in Our Intercessor

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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