

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

June 21, 2020

Issue 25

PATRIARCHS NOTION OF HOW TO “GET EVEN”

By: Ron White

Dinah had 12 brothers and no sisters. Like many teens, she wished to socialize with other young girls. So, she “went out to see the daughters of the land” (Gen. 34:1). Where young ladies hang out, young fellows will take notice. Young Prince Shechem saw Dinah and took her (34:2).

Surely Dinah had heard family history about similar encounters among her ancestors. Her lineage passed on accounts that warned of dangers for females roaming in those lands! Pharaoh snatched her married great-grandmother, Sarai for a potential wife (Gen. 12:15). King Abimelech took her great-grandmother, Sarai, for an addition to his house (Gen. 20:2-3). A Philistine king warned her granddad and grandmother that Rebekah could easily have been taken by one of his men (Gen. 26:(7) 10).

For thousands of years, I suppose from the beginning of human history, each generation seems to think stories told by old-timers about moral dangers they faced in life, don't apply to the current age. What was Dinah supposing girls enjoying city life could tell her? So, each generation seems to make similar foolish choices.

Shechem “humbled her” and kept her for a period of time. He liked her. He asked his dad to arrange for their marriage (Gen. 34:2-4).

Back at Dinah's home, her father Jacob heard what happened. He passed on that sad news to his sons who “grieved..were very wroth, because he (Shechem) had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done” (Gen. 34:6 -7). Dinah's brothers talked to Shechem's dad, **negotiating “with guile”** to get not only Shechem, but all the men in his city to become circumcised (Gen. 34:14-17). Ostensibly, townsmen thought this peaceable agreement would result in them getting some of Jacob's wealth (Gen. 34:23).

Remember what happened? Dinah's full blood brothers, Simeon and Levi, did a sneak attack on the town the 3rd day when all the men were incapacitated recovering from getting circumcised. They “slew all the males”, “plundered the city” taking its wealth and making captives of women and children (Gen. 34:25-29). Did Simeon and Levi “get even?” Not according to their dad. “You have troubled me to make me odious to the inhabitants of the land..” (Gen. 34:30; see 49:5-7).

Revenge takers and rowdy mobs commonly go beyond what an honorable judge would call justice. Were Dinah's brothers merely defending a sister who was victimized? Here is sample of what sometimes happen when raging men take the law into their own hands. They become law-breakers. They want revenge rather than remaining law-abiding. They might use deception to bait and disarm naive people. They strike with daring acts of violence to prove commitment

to their cause. When we consider human conduct, “there is no new thing under the sun” (Eccl. 1:9).

Ro. 13:3-4 declares a benefit of disputing parties taking their case to a “higher power,” a department of justice. By appealing to authorities, those at odds are kept at a distance from the other side until a trial date. So, disputing parties show themselves willing to accept what is deemed fair by allowing **disinterested** parties to express calm, rational judgment, whether by a judge or jury.

Ro. 12:17-19 Christians heeding God’s moral laws, resist that impulse to get revenge for an offence. People practicing personal vengeance generally “pay back with interest.” They behave like the first recorded polygamist, Lamech, who bragged to his wives, “I have **slain** a man for wounding me; and a young man **for bruising** me; if Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech **seventy and seven fold** (Gen. 4:23-24).

Ro. 12:20-21 Jesus taught us to initiate peace by doing good to a contrary person (Mt. 5:38-48). It is hard to continue hating a person who has shown you kindness.

Routine Worship

But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.
Psalm 59:16

Some believe that if worship is not spontaneous it is not authentic. It is true that traditions can become lifeless routines, but there are some compelling reasons to have daily and weekly set patterns of worship.

They keep things from crowding God out. Life is a constant moving stream of unexpected twists and turns. There are so many

things that pop up every day and demand our time. If our worship traditions are part of our non-negotiable, daily routines we will be much more successful at keeping God where He belongs each day.

They create holy space. It's good to have a time AND a place to worship. Daniel had a window. Jesus had a garden. For you it may be a chair or a break area at work or a certain booth at a coffee house or the side of your bed or your morning drive to work. Those ordinary places and routines become holy places and routines.

They serve as a reminder. We can't ever get too far away from God when we're anchored by these traditions.

-Selected-



Sunny Glen Children’s Home is requesting the following items only: Cereal and napkins.

Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway. The truck will be here to pick up August 18-20.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you would like to add items to the bulletin, please see Nina Siegel or email :
office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 21, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: James Cammock
Fruit of the Vine: James Cammock
Offering: Bryce Dolan

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Isaac Jobs
A.M. Closing: Ron White

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Wed. P.M.: Mike McVey

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Doug Jobs

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Will Burleson

****The Junior/Senior High Students will no longer be meeting in the fellowship hall for Wednesday Bible Class. They will be joining the adult Bible Class in the big auditorium.**

Sunday mornings, the Junior/Senior High Students will have a Bible Class in the fellowship hall at 9am.

As of right now, there are no younger children's classes on Sunday morning or Wednesday night and no Sunday evening Service.**

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Janice FitzSimmons who had follow-up testing last week at MD Anderson.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Anniversary: Allen & Pam Clifton (24)

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

Sermons are available on our website www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.

MidTown's Sunday Morning Worship service at 10am can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search Mid-Town church of Christ Victoria.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES (TEMPORARILY)

Sunday Morning Bible Class— 9:00 AM
(Jr. High/High School & Auditorium only)
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Wednesday Bible Class— 7:00 PM
(Auditorium only)

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 14, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....55
A.M. Worship.....100
Online views during worship.....30
Wednesday Bible Class.....66

Offering week of June 14, 2020.....\$3,485

Reading for this week:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” – John 13:35

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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