

## Food for Thought

For the week of June 2, 2013

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week we saw how Jacob and his sons nowhere included God in their thought processes or sought him for answers in how to deal with the tragic situation Dinah found herself in. What does Colossians 3:16-17 tell us about the importance of involving God in all that we do and how to go about doing that?

Are there any areas in your life (family, friends, work, hobbies, school, etc.) where you tend to not live out God's character or allow him to guide you?

Are there any friends you need to invite to have the kind of input in your life described in verse 16?

2. A response of anger is no doubt justified when seeing Shechem and his father's incredibly abusive and distorted view of love put into action against Dinah. Though not near as defaming, even today our view of love can get sidetracked. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13:3-7, speaks of the importance of love and defines what biblical love looks like. Take a moment to read through the passage and replace the word "love" with your name. What actions of love are you doing well at? Any actions of love you need to take a look at?

3. Throughout our recent study of Genesis, we have seen Jacob's struggle to leave a legacy and model of putting God at the center of his life and family. As followers of Christ, one of our greatest desires is that our life will help create an environment for our family and friends to follow and grow in Christ. One key to remember in making this happen is that our impact is more caught, than taught. In other words, the key is not a Bible study we give to others, but rather how our life lives out what we study in the Bible. As you read the following Scriptures, evaluate not just what they say, but how each can become part of your life's legacy and impact on others.

Philippians 4:4-6

Ephesians 6:4

Hebrews 10:24-25

James 5:16

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### **Colossians 3:16-17**

16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [NIV]

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### **1 Corinthians 13:3-7**

3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. [NIV]

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### **Philippians 4:4-6**

Final Exhortations

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [NIV]

**Ephesians 6:4**

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. [NIV]

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [NIV]

**James 5:16**

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. [NIV]