

BIBLE STUDY

10/1/15

Reuben's Heinous Act Explained

Gen. 35: GEN. 35:16-21

(After Jacob returns to Canaan, Reuben, his firstborn son, commits a heinous act).

¹⁶Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. ¹⁷And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son." ¹⁸And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), ²⁰and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. ²¹Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

It came about while Israel (Jacob) was dwelling in that land, THAT REUBEN WENT AND LAY WITH BILHAH HIS FATHER'S CONCUBINE, AND ISRAEL HEARD.

Gen. 49:2-4 [at the end of Jacob's life, he gathers his 12 sons together to give them his blessing (prophecy)] "reuben, you are my firstborn; my might and the beginning of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it--he went up to my couch."

1 Chronicles 5:1-2

5 The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he could not be enrolled as the oldest son; ² though Judah became strong among his brothers and a chief came from him, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph),

2 Samuel 16:20-22 (after David flees from Jerusalem, his son Absalom sets himself up as king by committing a heinous act). Then Absalom said to his counselor, “give your advice. What shall we do [to show that I am now king and not my father]? His counselor said, “Go in to your father’s concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself odious to your father...so they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom went in to his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel.

1 Kings 2:13-25

¹³ Then Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, “Do you come peacefully?” He said, “Peacefully.” ¹⁴ Then he said, “I have something to say to you.” She said, “Speak.” ¹⁵ He said, “You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign. However, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother’s, for it was his from the LORD. ¹⁶ And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me.” She said to him, “Speak.” ¹⁷ And he said, “Please ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag (his father David’s concubine) the Shunammite as my wife.” ¹⁸ Bathsheba said, “Very well; I will speak for you to the king.” ¹⁹ So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king’s mother, and she sat on his right. ²⁰ Then she said, “I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me.” And the king said to her, “Make your request, my mother, for I will not refuse you.” ²¹ She said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as his wife.” ²² King Solomon answered his mother, “And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my older brother, and on his side are Abiathar^l the priest and Joab the son of Zeruiah.” ²³ Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, “God do so to me and more also if this word does not cost Adonijah his life! ²⁴ Now therefore as the LORD lives, who has established me and placed me on the throne of David my father, and who has made me a house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today.” ²⁵ So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he struck him down, and he died.

Luke 16:1- 13

NARRATOR/JESUS: Now Jesus was also speaking to the disciples.

There was a rich man who had a manager, and this *manager* was reported to him as squandering his possessions. And the rich man called the manager and spoke to him.

RICH MAN: What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.

MANAGER OF UNJUSTICE [TO HIMSELF]: What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.

NARRATOR/JESUS: And he summoned each one of his master's debtors, and he spoke to the first.

MANAGER OF UNJUSTICE: How much do you owe my master?

FIRST DEBTOR: A hundred measures of oil.

MANAGER OF UNJUSTICE: Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.

MANAGER OF UNJUSTICE [TO SECOND DEBTOR]: And how much do you owe?

SECOND DEBTOR: A hundred measures of wheat.

MANAGER OF UNJUSTICE: Take your bill, and write eighty.

NARRATOR/JESUS: And his master praised the unjust manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light. And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of injustice (act justly with wealth), so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwelling

Thou shalt have no
other gods before me

Thou shalt not make
unto thee any graven
image

Thou shalt not take the
name of the Lord thy
God in vain

Remember the sabbath
day, to keep it holy

Honour thy father and
thy mother

Thou shalt not kill

Thou shalt not commit
adultery

Thou shalt not steal

Thou shalt not bear false
witness against thy
neighbour

Thou shalt not
covet (neighbor's wife)

Thou shalt not
covet (neighbor's
servants, animals, or
anything else)

Luke 10:25-42 ²⁵ And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" ²⁷ And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE." ²⁹ But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. ³¹ And by chance a priest came down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, ³⁴ and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' ³⁶ Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' *hands*?" ³⁷ And he said, "The one who did mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

Luke 18:18-27 ¹⁸ A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments, 'DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" ²¹ And he said, "All these things I have kept from *my* youth." ²² When Jesus heard *this*, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²³ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. ²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ They who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God."