



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

10/11 November 2018

Vol. 40, No. 44

The Ravages of Rage

Genesis 34

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Anthem
Baptism (*Morning services*)
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Panalanging Pastoral
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Dags Miguel
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



The Ravages of Rage

Today's Message (10/11 November 2018) /
Genesis 34

WE MUST
NEVER
FORGET THAT
VENGEANCE
BELONGS TO
THE LORD.

Jacob was supposed to be in Bethel, but here he was, enjoying himself in Shechem's territory. When you are in a state of disobedience (including delayed obedience) you put yourself and your family in jeopardy. When you are in a state of disobedience, you can never be confident about your decisions and actions.

Note how absent the name God is in this chapter again. It is a consistent feature whenever something goes terribly awry in Jacob's life. This chapter, one of the darkest and most gruesome in Genesis (perhaps the whole Bible) is instructive for us. It strongly reminds us, that one sin is never made right by another:

1. THE RAPE OF DINAH (vv. 1-12)

- Sin always has serious consequences. Shechem presumed, as a prince of the land, that he could get away with anything. But he destroyed an entire community with one senseless act.
- How do you think Dinah felt? Rape is never the victim's fault. And God never takes it lightly (*Deuteronomy 22:25-27*).
- The silence of Jacob: Silence is sometimes appropriate, but when unduly prolonged by a failure of leadership, it creates a vacuum for evil to thrive in.
- How you handle crises is indicative of your faith in God, or its absence.

2. THE TREACHERY OF JACOB'S SONS (vv. 13-24)

- "Because their sister had been defiled, Jacob's sons replied deceitfully." One sin is **never** made right by another. The downward spiral begins when anger leads to deceit.
- Circumcision, a ceremony associated with committed faith in the true God, is now bastardized by the enraged sons of Jacob into a means of execution. Note the requirement for "all your males." And the Hivites fell for it, partly because they wanted to get more from this whole mess than they already had (Dinah was captive at Shechem's home).

Traditional Service (Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude
Call To Worship
Worship Through Praise
Testimony
Worship Through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Preparatory Hymn
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship Through Giving
Response Song
Benediction



The Ravages of Rage

Today's Message (10/11 November 2018) /
Genesis 34

- With the benefit of hindsight, some armchair experts opine that it was better for Jacob and his boys to have agreed to marriage. Whether that's true or not, any alternative would have been a better outcome than what actually happened. When sin is responded to with sin, it always degrades the situation. Always.

3. THE MASSACRE OF THE HIVITES (vv. 25-31)

- Verse 25: "While all of them were still in pain... Simeon and Levi... attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male." The other brothers ransacked the city of all its wealth and turned the survivors into slaves. This sad, sickening outcome was inevitable from the moment you read "They were filled with grief and fury" (v. 7) and "Jacob's sons replied deceitfully" (v. 13).
- Murder is inexcusable (*Exodus 20:13*) and has consequences not just for the murderer and his family, but especially the family of the victim. Simeon and Levi never got away with it, and affected even their succeeding generations (*Genesis 49:5-7*).

But there are different kinds of murder. Some are less obvious, but in the eyes of God, just as onerous (*Matthew 5:21-22*). We must never forget that vengeance belongs to the Lord (*Romans 12:19-21*). At the same time, of all people, Christians must be the foremost to uphold the sanctity of life. God is against all forms of injustice.

- But Jacob's lame response is almost frustrating. Instead of zeal for the name of God or righteousness for his sons, he's more concerned about saving his own skin. This is Jacob back to his old ways, not Israel the prince that we are seeing.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What do vindictiveness, road rage, and unforgiveness all have in common? They all involve responding to sin with sin. By now you know through this sordid story that one sin is never made right by another. In fact, it always worsens the situation.

What then is the recourse of the Dinahs of this world, and those who love them and ache with them? To turn to the Word of God for counsel and strength. And this is what God says: If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God: "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good (*1 Peter 4:15-19*) ■

*I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord. No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee! O bless me now, my Savior – I come to Thee!*

—Annie S. Hawks

A blessed weekend, GCF Family!

We are down to the last two months of the church's 40th Anniversary. While we are much closer to the more familiar and perhaps more festive celebrations of December, here are some activities to look forward to:

CHURCH ELECTIONS FOR 2019 ELDERS AND DEACONS

After a time of prayer for potential nominees, we will now pray for the candidates for election. Starting last weekend and each weekend of the month, we will be posting their names together with the needed info through various media. The election proper will be held on December 8 and 9.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, FEATURING THE SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

We appreciate the labor of love of our decoration team, and their creativity in reviving the Singing Christmas Tree, which is now in the lobby (alongside decorations around the building). The tree's official launch is this weekend (Nov. 11 after the 10:30 a.m. Service), with music by the Chancel Choir.

CONCERT OF PRAYER, NOW ON A SUNDAY

Instead of the usual Concert of Prayer every last Saturday of the month, we will now incorporate this spiritual discipline of corporate prayer into our worship services. Beginning Nov. 25

and each fourth Sunday thereafter, we will intentionally spend more time to pray together during the worship services. While we now spend more time praying with and for one another as led by our Senior Pastor, may this change in schedule all the more encourage us to collectively become a prayerful church.

FOR THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUTH

Parents with children in high school and/or college are invited to a talk on understanding depression and its many faces. The Parents Team of our Youth Ministry (Youth L.I.V.E.) invites you to "Understanding the Darkness," which will feature talks by medical doctors and by our Senior Pastor. This will be held on November 23 at 6:30 p.m., which includes dinner. Slots are limited, so please contact Blythe Dizon soon at 0917 532 7741.

Finally, we want to thank each one who prayed for Tina Mercado. After our time of prayer for healing from her bout with cancer, our dear sister and beloved Chancel Choir member is now Home with the Lord. Let us continue to pray for peace and comfort, especially for her son Ced—who is also a Worship ministry servant through the band. Indeed, what a privilege it is, to carry everything to God in prayer. May we keep on praying, GCF ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



UNDERSTANDING THE DARKNESS

GCF Youth L.I.V.E. talk on depression
November 23 (Fri), 6:30 p.m. at BM07-08
Parents of the youth and youth leaders are invited to attend. Dinner will be served.
Please text **0917 532 7741** to register.



"BASTA'T KASAMA KITA..."

Naomi Women's Ministry Christmas Fellowship
Speaker: Pastor Noel Pabiona
December 1 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. here at GCF
All widows are invited.
Please text **0917 532 7713** to register.



CHANCEL CHOIR RECRUITMENT

There is joy in serving Jesus!
The Chancel Choir invites church members to consider serving the Lord through singing. Rehearsal schedules: 3 p.m. (Sat), 2 p.m. (Sun). Please contact Josh Capule at **0915 601 1211** if you are interested.



GGEX EXTREME

featuring How to Make Decisions You Won't Regret (Lessons on David's Life)
All adults without GG are invited.
Nov. 18 (Sun), 12-3 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Free lunch and material will be provided.
Please register at the booth at the lobby.
Registration is **free** but **limited to first 200**.

Election-related Announcement: Information on the candidates for church leaders are already available through the insert on this bulletin and the LED TVs around the church. Please continue to pray as we prepare to elect our new leaders on December 8 and 9.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by the Basilad family and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given as thanksgiving for God's love, faithfulness, protection, and blessings to Bingle Bravo Gutierrez and Cleofe Mercado's family. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

New Growth Group (Mixed)
Topic: Counting the Real Cost of Being A Disciple
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Rm. B124 (Growth Group Center)

Best Together in Christ
Group for Couples
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Rm. B508

Spark Growth Group
Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Seniors' Room

Life in Technicolor
support group for cancer patients and survivors
Every 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

Overcomers
support group for those under any kind of addiction
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at **0917 532 1921**.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / November 2018

	November Budget	Received, Nov. 1 to 7	Jan. to Nov. Budget	Received, Jan. 1 to Nov. 7
General Fund	7,618,215	1,845,192	95,440,729	77,912,920
Missions Fund	927,000	132,386	10,197,000	8,376,565

*Jesus heard them and answered,
“People who are well do not need a
doctor, but only those who are sick.
I have not come to call respectable
people, but outcasts.”*
— Mark 2:17 (GNT)

Throughout their history, the Jews had been victims of oppression, exploitation, and exile. Jaded and disaffected, the people began giving into apathy, or religiosity. Such is the situation of the Jewish people during Jesus’ time, which rings the same in our time. To revive people’s hearts, movements toward political and moral reform arose. One movement is that of the Pharisees, a group seeking renewal by searching for ways to apply Jewish traditions to the daily lives of the people. This group rapidly gained power during Mark’s time.

Compared with the Temple-based religiosity of the priests and scribes that emphasized ritual purity and temple accountability, Pharisees gave more focus on religiosity in household matters and livelihood practices. Such renewal movement views faithfulness to tradition as a mark of being a true follower of the Living God. However, it brings with it a status quo that categorizes life between what is sacred and what is unsacred.

But the gospel narrative shows us that there are no unsacred places, only desecrated ones. And as we see in Mark’s narrative, Jesus broke such categories and crossed the lines of tradition. Those who think that the status quo is ‘healthy’ (because they benefit from it) will not respond, and will even become hostile to the good news that Jesus brings.

As the Human One living out God’s passion for the world, He came to bring back the sacredness of humanity that was desecrated by sin. As the Divine One, Jesus went and ate with sinners, dined with those who are deemed ‘sick’ by the ‘healthy’ Pharisees. He went and came about healing people, not just from physical ailments but also from social alienation. Jesus shows us a renewal that crosses such uninviting lines by inviting Himself to the tables of ‘sinners.’ He extends His fellowship to restore outcasts into sons and daughters of the Living God.

May we experience Jesus’ life-renewing presence, touching our jaded and disaffected hearts. As we follow His way, let us be more aware of people outside our gatherings, both the outcasts and the unreached. Holy Spirit, strengthen us to be deliberate in proclaiming the good news through our words and fellowship ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

ON THE COVER: Colorful bunting hanging from an alley ceiling in the West Bank city of Nablus (*Wikimedia*). A predominantly Muslim city, it is called Shechem by Israelis today because of archaeological discoveries in the city’s suburbs that identifies it with the biblical Shechem in our message today.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **10/11 November 2018**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*.
Sin demands a penalty: “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.