



# God's Faithfulness *amidst* Man's Failure

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GENESIS

Sunday, May 9, 2021

## Welcome

We are so glad you have joined us to worship God this morning! Our church is inspired and motivated by the generous grace our Heavenly Father displayed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In response to His goodness, we strive to live out compassionate love for those around us as we live and speak the good news about Jesus. We hope you leave encouraged and inspired to respond to God's invitation for relationship and His call to go and make disciples of Jesus who will then make more and more disciples of Jesus.

### INTRODUCTION TO OUR SERMON SERIES

"There is no way God is pleased with my life." "I am so inconsistent with my faithfulness to God; I'm sure He gave up on me a long time ago."

Maybe you have had these thoughts in the past. Maybe you have them right now. If God's faithfulness to us is dependent on our faithfulness to Him, then maybe these thoughts would have some merit. But what if God is compelled not by the quality of our faithfulness but by the quality of *His* faithfulness?

As we work through the second half of Genesis together, we will encounter God's followers consistently failing to be faithful to God. But amidst the failures of man, we will also encounter the continual faithfulness of God as He demonstrates steadfast love and faithfulness to the very end.

Pastor Austin Branson  
*Lead Pastor*

gracechurch  
An Evangelical Free Church

500 S Main Street in Walworth, WI 53184  
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WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAYS AT 10AM

PRELUDE

*Before the Throne of God Above*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 66:1-4

WORSHIP IN SONG

*In Christ Alone*

*The Solid Rock*

Confession: Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12

*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOSPEL PROJECT KEY PASSAGE SONG

*In No One Else (Acts 4:12)*

GOSPEL PROJECT KIDS' BIBLE LESSON VIDEO

PRAYER

SERMON

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

**Connection Cards**

*Are you new to Grace? Do you have a prayer request? We invite you to fill out a Connect Card found at the Welcome Center or online.*

**Tithe Online**

*To give electronically, you can visit the "Give" page of our website -or- download the "Give Plus" app found in your phone's app store.*

**Weekly Email**

*If you would like to receive a weekly email that include reminders and updates, please visit the home page of our website to subscribe.*

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Monday, May 10-Friday, May 14**

BFHS AP Testing ..... 7:30am-3:30pm

**Tuesday, May 11**

Women's Bible Study (via Zoom) ..... 7:00pm

Contact: Marj DeVore, (262) 275-9426

**Wednesday, May 12**

*Designed to Lead Training* ..... 2:00-4:00pm

**Sunday, May 16**

Worship Service ..... 10:00am

Iglesia Jesucristo es mi Refugio ..... 12:00pm

Contact: Pastores Ricardo y Berna Ramos, (815) 355-7482

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BFHS AP Testing**

Big Foot High School will continue to host their Advance Placement testing at Grace Church this week, May 10-14. Most testing will take place between 7:30am-3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that the church family and ministry leaders be conscious of this and plan their activities after testing has taken place to allow for a quiet, distraction-free environment for the students.

**Compassion Ministry Workshop**

Would you like to know more about the Compassion Ministry at Grace Church? Are you interested in getting involved? Join us for a 45-minute workshop on Sunday, May 23 at 11:30am in FH1. Let us learn together how we can more effectively live as a compassionate community of Christ followers.

**Ministry Volunteer Needs**

Are you interested in using your gifts to serve in ministry? We are currently looking for individuals who would be willing to serve in the nursery and as drivers for our Inspiration Ministries church attendees. If interested, please fill out a Connection Card (found at the Welcome Center) and we will reach out with further details.

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	APRIL 2021			JULY 2020-APRIL 2021		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<i>Income</i>	\$24,750.75	\$21,516.53	\$3,234.22	\$240,272.85	\$231,164.06	\$9,108.79
<i>Expenses</i>	27,097.07	24,266.38	(2,830.69)	242,431.08	234,341.89	(8,089.19)
<i>Net</i>	<u>(2,346.32)</u>	<u>(2,749.85)</u>	403.53	<u>(2,158.23)</u>	<u>(3,177.83)</u>	1,019.60

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## SERMON NOTES

### The God Who Restores Genesis 34

I. Repayment by Hamor's son

II. Retribution by Jacob's sons

III. Restoration by God's Son

## REFLECTION & RESPONSE

### SUMMARY

Genesis 34 displays the extreme depravity of humanity. A violent sexual crime is committed against Dinah, and though she is the victim she is marginalized and silenced. Instead of helping Dinah heal from this tragedy, she becomes the pawn of negotiation between men who either offer repayment (Shechem) or exact disproportionate retribution (Jacob's sons). In the entire episode there is no mention of God. This does not mean that God is on vacation. What it does mean is that no one in the text is seeking Him out. The darkness of this passage reveals the depraved nature of the human heart absent of God. Neither Israel nor his sons can or will bring the ultimate blessing of restoration that God has promised. That promise can only be fulfilled by God Himself through Jesus, God's only Son and the world's only savior.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was Shechem's attempt to reconcile with Dinah insufficient for the crime committed against her? Perhaps you have sought out reconciliation with someone without truly admitting how you have wronged them. Share with the group reasons why you think people tend to offer repayment instead of repentance and restoration? Name some reasons why you do this.
2. How was Jacob's sons' retribution disproportionate to the crime committed? How was their violent act more about their honor and less about Dinah's healing? When you are offended, what is your typical response? Consider with the rest of your group, why people are motivated to protect their own honor more than seek healing and restoration. How do you see this in society? How are God's people supposed to be different?
3. The text purposefully omits any reference to God. Why? Share some ways you practice the presence of God in your own life. How does this help you seek true restoration with others?

### GO & DO TOGETHER

Israel and his sons were supposed to be a blessing to the nations. Unfortunately, that was not the case. God's church is supposed to be a blessing to the community around them. Who are some marginalized or victimized individuals in the community around you? If you are unaware of any, how can you educate yourself concerning the plight that is experienced in Walworth County? Do some research together. Spend time praying over those who are hurting. Consider tangible ways that God is inviting you, as a group, to live and speak the Good News of the Gospel to those suffering in our midst.