Main Thought  We must protect ourselves and families by recognizing and preventing disastrous engagement with the world.

RAPE (1-4).
• Dinah naively endangers herself in an alien world (Psa. 18:26; Jam. 4:4).
• Jacob is to blame for camping within sight of the city (33:18; 2 Cor. 6:17) and not continuing to Bethel from which he had left (35:1 – inclusio).
• Dinah was about 16 years old when Shechem, the Hivite ruler’s son, SAW her, TOOK her, VIOLATED her (Jud. 20:5; 2 Sam. 13:12, 22, 32; Lam. 5:11).
• The violent SONS OF GOD did the same (6:2).
• In contrast he now is DRAWN, LOVES, and SPEAKS tenderly (3 verbs).
• With no remorse, he demands (get) the GIRL (demeaning; his true feelings) for his wife. Later would call her YOUNG WOMAN (dignity – 12) to her family.
• Notice his spoiled sense of entitlement (19).

REACTIONS (5-7). Jacob (not Israel?) remains silently passive in contrast to her brother’s grief and fury (David, but he too did nothing – 2 Sam. 13:21).

REMEDY (8-12).
• With no apology, Hamor proposes marriage as diplomacy (Isa. 5:20).
• Shechem offers a DOWRY (Deut. 22:28-29) with an additional gift (bribery?).
• Intermarriage is what Abraham and Isaac dreaded (27:46; Deut. 7:3).

RUSE (13-24).
• The brothers deceitfully propose circumcision as a ruse without Jacob for he would “not enter their counsel” (49:6).
What irony! The body part used in this violence would become the source of punishment.
• Shechem’s motivation – MATERIALISM – becomes clear as this convinces the men of the city to do so. It would take big motivation!
• It is sad that circumcision lost all spiritual meaning by them (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

RETRIBUTION (25-29).
• When the pain was severest, Simeon and Levi, full brothers (like Absolam) of Dinah, attacked, killing every male and rescued their sister.
• Their desire for justice was good, but they overreacted and engaged in holy war prematurely without divine sanction (15:16; Deut. 20:16-18).
• Simeon and Levi lose leadership (49:5-6) and land (49:7).
• This story is a digression in Genesis to show the ascendency of Judah (49:8, 10). Rueben (35:22), Simeon, and Levi (all older) forfeited their rights.

REACTIONS (30-31).
• Jacob is not happy; he was thinking strategically, not ethically.
• Because Jacob was passive, the sons rescue Dinah – “our sister”.

A Dangerous World
Genesis 34