



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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## Prayer

Lord, I thank You for the incredible friendships You have placed in my life. I am immeasurably blessed to have such loving, faithful, and true relationships. When I think of all the people who live such lonely lives, it makes me want to stop and express my gratefulness to You for placing such precious people in my life. Lord, I also ask You to please help me see those who need to be loved so I can include them as a part of my life. I want to give to others the love and support that I have received. Holy Spirit, help me to start doing this today, in Jesus' name I ask it....Amen.

## Scripture

Genesis 34:1-31 (AMP)

1 NOW DINAH daughter of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob, went out [unattended] to see the girls of the place. 2 And when Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he seized her, lay with her, and humbled, defiled, and disgraced her. 3 But his soul longed for and clung to Dinah daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke comfortingly to her young heart's wishes. 4 And Shechem said to his father Hamor, Get me this girl to be my wife. 5 Jacob heard that [Shechem] had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field. So Jacob held his peace until they came. 6 But Hamor father of Shechem went out to Jacob to have a talk with him. 7 When Jacob's sons heard it, they came from the field; and they were distressed and grieved and very angry, for [Shechem] had done a vile thing to Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter, which ought not to be done. 8 And Hamor conferred with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem craves your daughter [and sister]. I beg of you give her to him to be his wife. 9 And make marriages with us and give your daughters to us and take our daughters to you. 10 You shall dwell with us; the country will be open to you; live and trade and get your possessions in it. 11 And Shechem said to [Dinah's] father and to her brothers, Let me find favor in your eyes, and I will give you whatever you ask of me. 12 Ask me ever so much dowry and [marriage] gift, and I will give according to what you tell me; only give me the girl to be my wife. 13 The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, [justifying their intended action by saying, in effect, we are going to do this] because Shechem had defiled and disgraced their sister Dinah. 14 They said to them, We cannot do this thing and give our sister to one who is not circumcised, for that would be a reproach and disgrace to us. 15 But we do consent to do this: if you will become as we are and every male among you be circumcised, 16 Then we will give our daughters to you and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you and become one people. 17 But if you will not listen to us and consent to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go. 18 Their words pleased Hamor and his son Shechem. 19 And the young man did not delay to do the thing, for he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was honored above all his family [so, ranking first, he acted first]. 20 Then Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their [enclosed] town and discussed the matter with the citizens, saying, 21 These men are peaceable with us; so let them dwell in the land and trade in it; for the land is large enough [for us and] for them; let us take their daughters for wives and let us give them our daughters. 22 But the men will consent to our request that they live among us and be one people only on condition that every male among us be circumcised, as they are. 23 Shall not their cattle and their possessions and all their beasts be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell here with us. 24 And all the people who went out of the town gate listened and heeded what Hamor and Shechem said; and every male was circumcised who was a resident of that town. 25 But on the third day [after the circumcision] when [all the men] were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's [full] brothers, took their swords, boldly entered the city [without danger], and slew all the males. 26 And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house [where she had been all this time] and departed. 27 [Then the rest of] Jacob's [eleven] sons came upon the slain and plundered the town, because there their sister had been defiled and disgraced. 28 They took their flocks, their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the town and in the field; 29 All their wealth and all their little ones and their wives they took captive, making spoil even of all [they found] in the houses. 30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, You have ruined me, making me infamous and embroiling me with the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites! And we are few in number, and they will gather together against me and attack me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my household. 31 And they said, Should he [be permitted to] deal with our sister as with a harlot?

## Worship Music

[Your Grace Is Enough- Chris Tomlin](#)

[Something Beautiful- Newsboys](#)

[Wherever We Go- Newsboys](#)

[I'LL Be Home For Christmas-Rascal Flatts](#)

[Jingle Bell Rock-Rascal Flatts](#)

## Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

## Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women- Cathe Laurie](#)

**Genesis 34. Dinah Avenged by Simeon and Levi**

On his return, Shechem was Jacob's first stopping place in Canaan. There he bought a parcel of ground and erected an altar to God, as if planning to make it his home, temporarily at least. But the bloody act of Simeon and Levi made him odious to his neighbors, and he soon moved on to Bethel. (Halley's Bible Handbok; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; page 123)

**Trouble At Shechem: V 13** Jacob's sons were also deceitful. **VV 16-21** It was not the will of God that the children of Israel be mixed with other people, so this plan was not carried out. **V 30** Jacob was not so upset by the injustice of what his sons had done as by the dangerous position their actions had put him in.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries; page 17)

**Be Affectionate to One Another****Romans 12:10**

When my family and I first moved to the former Soviet Union, God connected us to some of the most wonderful people we've ever known. Although these people were from a completely different culture and background, they genuinely became a part of our family. This was especially wonderful for our sons, who now lived so far from their own natural relatives. It was also wonderful for me, for I discovered a level of relationship I had never before known in the Christian community. Although no one could ever possibly replace our natural families, we were thankful to God for these brothers and sisters who truly became "family" to us on the other side of the world.

Unfortunately, in many parts of the Christian community, this level of relationship I am describing is sadly missing. It is unfortunate that people attend church week after week and hardly know the people they regularly sit next to in the church services. Life has become so busy with natural concerns that most believers suffer from a severe deficiency of relationships with their fellow believers. This was never God's plan for the local church, for He designed it to be a place where people's lives could be built together as living stones. His plan was and still is to have a people who demonstrate His covenant nature in their relationships with one another.

The apostle Paul talks about these types of covenant relationships in Romans 12:10 when he says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." When I read these words of Paul, I can't help but think of the spiritual family and the genuine brothers in Christ whom I love so much in the former Soviet Union. We love them so profoundly that we have literally laid down our lives for them—and they likewise love us and have laid down their lives for us.

The phrases "be kindly affectioned" and "brotherly love" are key to understanding the level of relationship that God intends for us to have with our Christian brothers and sisters. The phrase "be kindly affectioned" is from the Greek word *philostorgos*, which expresses the idea of a love between friends that is authentic, sincere, tender, and warm. This word *philostorgos* is a compound of the words *phileo* and *stergo*. The word *phileo* is the Greek word for friendship, and the word *stergo* is the Greek word that depicts the tender love that should exist between the members of a family. But because the words *phileo* and *stergo* are joined to form the word *philostorgos*, it represents two or more friends who love each other just as deeply as if they were members of the same family.

If Paul had stopped here, it would have already been enough to let us know that the members of the local church should be like family to us. But to further confirm this truth, Paul tells us that we are to have "brotherly love" between ourselves. The words "brotherly love" are translated from the Greek word *Philadelphia*, a compound of *phileo*, which, as noted above, means to love like a friend. The second part of the word is *adelphos*, the Greek word for a brother. When compounded together, it becomes the word *Philadelphia*, which means to love dearly like a brother.

By using both of these phrases, Paul is telling us that our relationships in the Body of Christ should carry the authenticity of family. We should indeed love each other as if we were genuinely blood brothers and sisters. In fact, our love for one another should be so profound that we hold one another in honor. This is precisely what Paul says next when he tells us, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

The words "in honour" in Greek express the idea of being appraised very highly or considered as very valuable or very precious. It gives the idea of an appreciation so great that you would prefer to see the person you love succeed even more than you want to see your own success. You truly desire the very best for this person because you love him so deeply.

When the King James Version uses the word "preferring," it is the Greek word *proegeomai*, which means to esteem, to admire, to highly respect, to consider, and to value very highly. It represents the attitude of a person who values a friend so highly that he deeply desires the very best to come to pass for his friend—even if it means that his friend is blessed at his own expense. This means there is no room for jealousy or competition where this kind of love abounds.

A fuller interpretive translation of Romans 12:10 could read:

"Love each other with the same love you have for your family. In fact, you should love each other with the same love that is shared between two brothers. The value you place on each other should be so high that it makes you desire to see those you love excel and achieve much in life, even if it means that they excel and achieve more than you do."

Do you have these kinds of relationships in the Christian community? I'm talking about precious relationships that you hold to be as dear to you as family. If so, you should count yourself very blessed, for the lives of many believers are vacant of such relationships. This is all the more reason to make sure you take the time to really express to these people whom you love as family just how deeply you love them!

God planned for the local church to be a place of covenant relationship. If you have such relationships, be careful to always treat them as a special gift from Heaven. And if your life lacks this blessing, ask the Holy Spirit to birth a God-given relationship that will bring a touch of Heaven into your life.

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Are some of your relationships so precious that you hold them to be as dear to you as family?

If so, have you taken the time to really express to them how much you love them?

What can you do to improve your skills to become a better friend?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

#### Psalm 57:1-11 (AMP)

**1** BE MERCIFUL and gracious to me, O God, be merciful and gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge and finds shelter and confidence in You; yes, in the shadow of Your wings will I take refuge and be confident until calamities and destructive storms are passed.

**2** I will cry to God Most High, Who performs on my behalf and rewards me [Who brings to pass His purposes for me and surely completes them]!

**3** He will send from heaven and save me from the slanders and reproaches of him who would trample me down or swallow me up, and He will put him to shame. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! God will send forth His mercy and loving-kindness and His truth and faithfulness.

**4** My life is among lions; I must lie among those who are aflame—the sons of men whose teeth are spears and arrows, their tongues sharp swords.

**5** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!

**6** They set a net for my steps; my very life was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way; into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

**7** My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is steadfast and confident! I will sing and make melody.

**8** Awake, my glory (my inner self); awake, harp and lyre! I will awake right early [I will awaken the dawn]!

**9** I will praise and give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

**10** For Your mercy and loving-kindness are great, reaching to the heavens, and Your truth and faithfulness to the clouds.

**11** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)  
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 59-60)