

3. The reconciliation in a family that reveals God's reconciliation of us
(Genesis 35:27-29)

Table Talk

- 1) What life sorrows have you faced? Do sorrows draw you nearer to God or further away from Him? How does Rachel's sorrow lead to our salvation? (vv. 16-21)
- 2) What is the hidden sin in this family? What might be Reuben's motives? Though Bilhah was a victim either way, was she a willing participant or was she like Dinah in chapter 34? How can Jacob's lack of action be explained? When evil is not addressed, will that make the evil go away, or make it worse? (v. 22)
- 3) Why are the sons of Jacob listed by mother and not chronologically? How does this list show the ugliness of sin also? What do the act of Reuben and the list of Jacob's sons have in common? How do both reveal that salvation is completely by grace and completely by God? (vv. 23-26)
- 4) What do you think it was like for Jacob to be reunited with his father? How is Isaac's death described? Why was it important for Jacob and Esau to be reconciled before their father died? How does that reconciliation foreshadow God's reconciliation of us? (vv. 27-29)
- 5) From a human perspective, how could the promise of God have been lost by these events? Where do we see the Gospel in this section of scripture?