



Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 3, 2016

Deadly Compromise

Scripture: Genesis 34: 1-22

What does compromise mean?

It means to accept standards that are lower than is desirable or to weaken (a reputation or principle) by accepting standards that are lower than is desirable.

The opposite of compromise is INTEGRITY.

What kind of integrity is being asked from us Christians?

We should not accept any standard lower than what the Word says. That we should love Christ and to be characterized to have ever-increasing fidelity to biblical truth is the heart of true integrity. *Christian integrity is defined as the absence of compromise and the presence of biblical convictions. In the words of the psalmist, is to work righteousness and to speak the truth from the heart. (John McArthur)*

This simply means that we have to walk the talk, and talk the walk. There should be a consistent flow of integrity from what comes out of our lips and what our hands do.

The Compromises of Jacob.

In Genesis 34, we see the story of Jacob's daughter Dinah.

After the reconciliation between Jacob and Esau, Jacob told his brother that he would follow him to Seir (Genesis 33:13-14). But instead of going straight to Seir, Jacob had stopped in Succoth, purchased a land there and settles in the land of Shechem. Here the prince of the land rapes his daughter Dinah.

Jacob had lied to Esau and didn't immediately follow his brother to Seir. He also didn't go to Bethel where God told him to go but instead choose to camp in Shechem. To ease his conscience, he had built an altar in that place. (Genesis 3:20)

Jacob did obey God, but he did not obey God totally and completely. The prophet Samuel in 1 Samuel 15:22 tells us ***has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD. Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.***

We too find ourselves in similar situations. When tempted, we do not totally disobey but we allow ourselves to compromise.

In verse 7, we see that Jacob's sons were grieved and were very angry at the prince of Shechem who had defiled their sister. But Hamor, the father came to ask for Dinah's hand in marriage to his son. He offered to Jacob and his sons that they should intermarry and continue to live in their land.

It seems like a good offer, but 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 tells us ***Do not be bound together with unbelievers, for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?***

This may seem unreasonable or difficult but we must constantly remember that God's commands, His laws and edicts are here to protect us, to bless us. But if choose to violate scripture, to disobey God then we will find ourselves in difficult situations.

This is our encouragement if we obey this command:

GOD'S PROMISE + GOD'S WAY + GOD'S TIME = GOD'S BEST

If we want to experience God's blessing then we simply follow the formula. But we are always free to choose BUT we are not free from the consequences of your choice.

The Consequences of Jacob's compromise.





How did Jacob's sons respond? By deception. In Genesis 34: 18-23, they convinced the men of Shechem to be circumcised and while they were weak and in pain, they took revenge and killed every one of them. Jacob's sons took matters into their own hands. Romans 12:19 says ***Never take your own revenge, beloved but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written " Vengeance is Mine, I will repay says the Lord.***

The compromises Jacob made had led to more compromises and horrible consequences. Eventually Levi and Simeon was cursed for their anger and cruelty (Genesis 49: 5-7), they lost their inheritance from Israel.

A small compromise will lead to more compromises. Cracks don't get smaller, they get bigger. You cannot correct a mistake with another mistake. Whatever circumstance you are in, don't compromise but trust God. You can only follow the Lord if you trust Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 says ***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.***

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Are there still areas of your life that you have compromises? Is there anything that is preventing your from completely following Christ? When are you most vulnerable to compromise?</p>
	<p>Family: Integrity and Compromise. Talk about what you as a family what to uphold – values, beliefs. How can you practice this with integrity? How can you practice integrity? What are the things that can tempt you to compromise?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Discuss with your discipleship group that things that you are struggling with that cause you to compromise. How can you intentionally avoid falling into the trap of compromising?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.