

(continued from the front)

5:12–15). He could have made a difference, but he chose to blame others.

Shechem was a prince among the Hivites in Canaan. While Jacob and his family were camped among the Hivites, Shechem sexually assaulted Dinah, Jacob’s daughter (Genesis 34:1–2). Dinah’s brothers learned what had happened when Shechem’s father offered a dowry for her. The brothers agreed only if all the men of the city were circumcised. To this, Shechem said, “Only let us consent to them” (Genesis 34:23). However, on the third day, while the men of the city were still in pain, two of Dinah’s brothers entered the city, killed all the adult males, and took the people and all their possessions. Never enter into an agreement with angry brothers, and never try to buy your way out of wrongdoing.

A few years later, Aaron was at the base of Mount Sinai. Moses had been gone for quite some time, so the people came to Aaron and asked him to make them a god (Exodus 32:1). Aaron asked for their gold earrings and fashioned a golden calf. When Moses came down from the mountain and asked what had happened, Aaron said, “I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out” (Exodus 32:24). “It was an accident” or “It just happened” are not good responses. “Forgive me, for I have sinned” would have been a much better response.

What is the lesson for us? All of these men were leaders. They had opportunities to do the right thing, but in the moment, they chose evil instead. When they were confronted, they blamed others, tried to buy their way out, or made excuses. Men in leadership positions sometimes make mistakes—even grievous errors. Leaders need people willing to say, “Thou art the man!” and bring sin to light so that reconciliation can occur.

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## You Shouldn't Have Said That



There are some things you’ve said that you wish you could take back. What if you had said them and they were recorded in the Bible? For thousands of years, you would be remembered as the person who said them. Let’s look at some things that should not have been said and consider their implications.

Adam was the first man. He was also the first to say something he should not have said. Adam and Eve had a great gig. The only “Thou shalt not” was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So, they did just that. When God questioned them, Adam said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate” (Genesis 3:12). The first person ever thrown under the bus was Eve. Both received punishment for their transgression (Genesis 3:16–19). However, it was Adam who was identified as the transgressor (Romans

### Elders

Ron Akers  
Phil Degelia  
Tim Simmons

### Deacons

Mike Fox  
(Building and Grounds)  
Jeff Kiel  
(Building and Grounds)  
Dean Rosser  
(Safety)  
Roland Snipes  
(Benevolence)  
Keith Tolbert  
(Education)

### Minister

Bryan Winn

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