



The Catastrophe of Half-Hearted Discipleship

Judges 1-2
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The Big Idea: In the space of one generation, Israel went from knowing and walking with the Lord to being minimally different from the pagan tribes of Canaan. Spiritual decline follows this pattern: commitment, **complacency**, **compromise**, **catastrophe**. Only the Lord can save us.

Judges 1:27-36 → half-way obedience on full display

2 Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, ² and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' **But you have not obeyed my voice.** What is this you have done? ³ So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you." ⁴ As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. ⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. **And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.**

The Promises the Lord Made to Israel

- ☐ I will be your **God** and you will be My people. [Exodus 6:7]
- ☐ I will make of you a great **nation** that will be a light to all other nations. [Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:6]
- ☐ I will give you a **land** to be your own. [Deuteronomy 30:5]
- ☐ I will drive out your **enemies** from the Land of Promise [Exodus 23:22-23]

- ☐ **Messiah** (Jesus) will be from Abraham's family, born in Bethlehem. [Micah 5:2]
- ☐ When God sends our ultimate Deliverer, He will be **God** Himself. [Isaiah 9:6]

The Lasting Lessons of Judges 1-2

1. We are always **one** generation from being a culture that doesn't know the Lord or the things He has done.
2. Every generation lives among **idols**. Each of us must choose whether we will **substitute** idols for the Lord, **add** idols to our worship of the true God, or **reject** them and love and worship and live for the Lord with whole-hearted devotion.
3. We are all in need of a **Greater** Deliverer than any human being could ever be. Jesus is His name. [John 8:34-36]

Solutions:

1. **Believe** and live out your faith in the Lord. Deuteronomy 6:1-6
2. Parents and grandparents, teach your children and grandchildren God's **Word** and who the Lord is. Deuteronomy 6:7-9
3. Be **thankful** for the Lord's blessings. Deuteronomy 6:10-12
4. Give fierce **loyalty** to the Lord, rejecting all other gods and their idols, knowing the Lord is fiercely jealous for your **affections**. Deuteronomy 6:13-15
5. **Separate** yourself from the false gods and idols around us. Deuteronomy 6:16-19
6. Never stop **telling** the **stories** of how God has been faithful and how He has saved you. Deuteronomy 6:20-25
7. All Christians: live out Titus 2:1-8.

"Partial obedience, delayed obedience, and surface obedience to impress others are not acceptable to God. He is looking for men and women who will respond with instant, complete, wholehearted, and joyous obedience each time He speaks."

—Del Fehsenfeld Jr.
