



Faithful God - Broken People

Judges 17-21
November 6, 2022

The Big Idea: Judges has taught us that for every period of **rebellion** against God, there is a time of **judgment**. For every time of crying out to the Lord, there is **mercy** from the Lord and a willingness to forgive and restore. **Sin** has broken us beyond our ability to recover without the Lord's provision of a **Savior**. Only in Christ can we be healed.

17 ⁵And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained one of his sons, who became his priest. ⁶In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

→ Micah and his mother deliberately sinned by breaking the 1st and 2nd commandments.

18 ²³And they shouted to the people of Dan, who turned around and said to Micah, "What is the matter with you, that you come with such a company?" ²⁴And he said, "You take my gods that I made and the priest, and go away, and what have I left? How then do you ask me, 'What is the matter with you?'"

→ When you create your own God and formulate your own religion, sooner or later it will be **taken** from you.

³⁰And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.

→ "One generation knows the gospel, the next **assumes** it, and the third **loses** it. Nowhere is this better seen in Scripture than in Moses' family." – Don Carson

19 ²²As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And

they said to the old man, the master of the house, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him."

²⁵But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go.

→ A Levite who serves at his own pleasure, designs his own religion, and has a concubine in addition to his wife.

→ Sexual sin and sexual abuse have become **common**-place. Unthinkable abuse of a dead woman's body reveals the depths of their **depravity**.

→ This is Israel's "Sodom" experience. They have moved so far away from the Lord that there is **no** difference in their behavior and that of pagan people.

20 ⁴⁸And the men of Israel turned back against the people of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of the sword, the city, men and beasts and all that they found. And all the towns that they found they set on fire.

→ A **vengeful** slaughter of their own brothers – the tribe of Benjamin is almost wiped out. Only about 600 men are left – their wives were all killed.

→ More than 100,000 men of Israel died in this awful civil war.

21 ¹Now the men of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, "No one of us shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin."

→ Because the other tribes of Israel refuse to give their daughters as wives to their Benjamite brothers, the daughters of **pagan** people are brought in to be the wives.

²⁵In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

What Our Faithful God Has Done for Broken People:

- He tells us the **truth** about our condition, our **hopelessness** to save ourselves, and of His provision of a **Savior**.
- Romans 1:18-32; 2:1-11; 3:21-26; 5:1-11