



BROKEN RECORD

Studies in Judges-Ruth

June 5, 2011

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 9, Issue 39



Power of the Spoken Word Judges 9-12



To achieve God's best for us we must break the cycle of disobedience and discipline.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God's mission

While the spoken word is highly influential because of the action it invokes. This is clearly seen in this week's study in Judges, which begins with the story of Abimelech. This son of Gideon's concubine incited the men of Shechem to kill the seventy full sons of Gideon so he could rule over them. He failed, though, to kill the youngest, Jotham, who called the Shechemites to account for their lack of integrity to Gideon's family. Comparing Abimelech to a bramble bush he pronounced a fatal curse on him and the men of Shechem, prophesying that they would both be consumed if they were indeed dishonorable. Things went well at first, but then a conspiracy arose against Abimelech, led by Gaal. His boasts were reported by Zebul to Abimelech, though, and

they were ambushed. Thus the men of Shechem were crushed by him, but his last effort resulted in his skull being crushed by a woman at Thebez. Thus, Jotham's curse was fulfilled. After this Tola and Jair judged Israel, but Israel begin to serve other gods after their death. God brought Ammonite oppression on them and they cried out to Him again with a frantic confession. At first He refused to help, but out of compassion He relented. He allowed the men of Gilead to recruit the next deliverer, Jephthah, who was the son of a harlot. He first approached the king of Ammon with a reminder that God had given them the land, and that they had fought for it and won it, but they went to war anyway. Jephthah made a foolish commitment, promising God that he would sacri-

fice whatever came out of his door if He gave him victory. God did that, and then when Jephthah returned his daughter walked out. He kept his commitment and four days were set aside to commemorate this every year. This showed the foolishness of every man doing what was right in his own eyes. Jephthah then had to conquer his fellow Ephraimites who were upset that he had not allowed them to fight Ammon. After this he died and was succeeded by three other judges, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon. In this section, as Jotham and Jephthah show, the power of the spoken word was evident.

Study Questions for Judges 9-12

(For answers go to http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study_questions)

1. Read Judges 9:1-6. Who was Abimelech (v1) and what did he propose (v2)? What was the response (v3) and what did Abimelech do (v4-5)? What were the results (v5, 6)?	
2. In 9:7-21 who opposed Abimelech (v7)? Recap the story he used (v8-15) and what it implied (v15). What did he tell Shechem to consider (v16-19)? Since the answer was negative what did he call for (v20-21)?	
3. Using 9:22-29 how long was Abimelech's rule, what occurred and why (v22, 23-24)? How did the resistance against Abimelech play out—part 1 (v25) and part 2 (v26-29)?	

(Continued on Next Page)

Judges 9-12 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Judges 9:30-49 why was Abimelech able to counterattack (v30-33) and what does this teach us? Describe the way he defeated Gaal and Shechem (v34-41, 42-45) and Shechem's leaders (v46-49).

5. Looking at 9:50-57 how was Abimelech killed (v50-54) and what resulted (v55)? What was the summary of this entire story (v56-57) and what did it reveal (v57)?

6. In 10:1-16 who judged Israel next and how long (v1-2, 3-5)? What happened then (v6, 7-9), how did Israel react (v10), what did God say (v11-14), and what resulted (v15-16)?

7. Based on 10:17-11:11 what offer was made (10:17-18)? Who was recruited (11:5-6) and what was he like (11:1-4)? How did he react (v7) and what was the outcome (v8-11)?

8. Using 11:12-28 how did Jephthah approach the Ammonites (v12-13) and of what did he remind them (v14-17, 18-22)? What points did he make (v23-24, 25, 26, 27)?

9. Read 11:29-40. What was Jephthah's vow (v29-31) and what occurred next (v32-33)? Describe what then took place (v34-35), how his daughter dealt with this (v36-39), and what resulted (v40). How do you explain this?

10. According to 12:1-15 who challenged Jephthah and why (v1)? What happened and how (v2-6)? How long was his judgeship (v7) and who else judged Israel (v8-10, 11-12, 13-15)?

11 Looking back over 9-12 how were spoken words powerful in the lives of Jotham (9:7-21), Gaal (v26-30), Israel (10:10-16), and Jephthah (11:29-40; 12:5-6)? What does this teach us?

Scripture to Remember

“So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord; and He could bear the misery of Israel no longer.”

Judges 10:16 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—A Suffering Savior (Luke 23:26-32)

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Talk about the kinds of pain or suffering there are. Each person share which kind of pain—physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, short-term or long-term pain is worst.
2. Read Matt 16:21. What 3 things did Jesus reveal to His disciples here? How do you explain that there would be so much suffering for Him in the plan of God?
3. Talk about the ways that Jesus suffered before and at the cross—injustice, humiliation, and physical pain. Which would have been the worst to you and why?
4. Discuss the importance of the sacrificial system of God, and what makes sacrifices so significant. Why were the suffering and substitutionary aspects of Christ's death vital?
5. In what ways did God suffer in the death of Christ? Why is this so important for the sake of justice? Was Christ's death for us primarily, or for God?
6. Share about how it must have felt to Jesus to have been separated from His Father for the 3 hours on the cross. What does that do for us?
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.