



BROKEN RECORD

Studies in Judges-Ruth

June 19, 2011

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 9, Issue 41



Trouble Comes in Threes Judges 17-18



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

There's a common superstition that "trouble comes in threes". While it often happens that way, there's not a secret force that renders this pattern inevitable. In this week's study there are some triplets of trouble, first of decisions, then of perspectives, and finally of actions. This pattern shows just how complete Israel's fall had been since taking Canaan, with each person or tribe doing what was right in their own eyes. The section begins with three poor decisions, led by Micah's theft of silver from his mother. After she uttered a curse against whoever took it, he admitted his sin. She then blessed him for this confession and dedicated the silver to the Lord to make graven and molten images. Then they set up a shrine, all in violation of God's law. They

were just doing what was "right in their own eyes", though. A third bad decision occurred as a Levite left his divine allotment to look for a better deal. He happened upon Micah, who offered him ten pieces of silver, a suit of clothes and daily provision if he would be his private priest. He superstitiously thought God would bless him for this; nothing could have been more wrong. Next, three poor perspectives ensued. The first of these was by the tribe of Dan, who left their God-given portion to find a place to settle. They discovered a vulnerable city in the north, Laish, and wrongly decided that this was the land God had given them, based on approval given by the Levite at Micah's house. Then, when they returned they hired him as their priest, and his perspective was that

this was good, since he would be a priest over a greater number. This was a very human way of looking at this. Finally, there were three poor actions. First, the Danites stole Micah's idols, along with the priest. Next, Micah tried to retrieve them with a lesser army. Being outnumbered, he had to turn back. Last, The Danites went to Laish, and killed everyone there, burned the city down, and renamed the city Dan. They then installed their priest and idols, even though the central shrine to God was at Shiloh. Because everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes, trouble came in threes.

Study Questions for Judges 17-18

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Read Judges 17:1-2. What had Micah done and how did he try to make it right (v2)? Why do you think he did (v2)? What was his mother's response (v2) and do you agree with it?</p> | |
| <p>2. In 17:3-6 what did Micah's mother do with the silver (v3) and how did Micah respond (v4)? What else did he do (v5) and why (v6)? List the sins in these verses.</p> | |
| <p>3. From 17:7-9 who entered Micah's story (v7) and what did he do (v8)? Why had he done this (v9) and why was this wrong (see Josh 21:1-8)?</p> | |

(Continued on Next Page)

Judges 17-18 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Judges 17:10-13 what was Micah's invitation and offer (v10)? How did the Levite respond (v11)? What else did Micah do and what did he expect (v12-13)? Why was this wrong, and how do we do this today?

5. Using 18:1-6 what was the Danite tribe doing (v1-2) and why (see Jud 1:34-35)? Why was this wrong (Josh 19:40-46)? What did they discover (v3) and then discuss (v4-6)?

6. According to 18:7-10 where did the spies find out (v7) and what did they do with this information (v8-9)? Why (v9-10)? Was their analysis right?

7. In 18:11-14 what did the Danites do next (v11-12) and where did they stop (v13)? What did the 5 spies tell them (v14) and what were they urging?

8. Based on 18:15-20 how did the Danites respond (v15-16) and what did they do (v17)? What did they tell the priest (v18-19) and how did he react (v20)? Do you agree with him?

9. Read 18:21-26. What did Micah do and ask (v21-22) and what was Dan's initial reaction (v23)? What did Micah say (v24) and what was Dan's threat (v25)? What did Micah then do and why (v26)?

10. According to 18:27-31 what did Dan do to Laish (v27-28)? What else did they do (v29, 30-31)? How and why were their actions wrong (v27-28, 29, 30, 31)?

11 Summarize the poor decisions (17:1-9), perspectives (17:10-18:16), and actions (18:11-31) of Micah, the Levite, and Dan in this section.

Scripture to Remember

“In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 17:6 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Acting Out—The Universal Gospel

(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. Share in your group about a time you talked to someone about Jesus, and how that went. What are some situations that lend themselves to that in your life?
2. Look at Acts 10 and retell the story of Peter and Cornelius. From 10:1-2 how had God prepared Cornelius? Discuss some ways that God prepares those in our lives today.
3. Talk about Rom 1—how God reveals Himself in nature. Also, what does it mean to us that He always provides more light to those who respond to the light they already have?
4. Describe Peter's attitude towards Cornelius—his pride, his prejudice, and the people (Jews) he would have to face later. Do any of these things—or something else—cause you to be a reluctant witness? Tell your group about that.
5. Why did Peter finally decide to share the message (10:17-29)? How do you know when God is leading you to talk with someone about Christ?
6. Talk about the importance of actually speaking the message about Christ to another. Why do you think God decided that the gospel would primarily spread by this method?
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.