



BROKEN RECORD

Studies in Judges-Ruth

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Crimes Against Humanity Judges 19-21



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

In an official sense “crimes against humanity” are “particularly odious offences in that they constitute a serious attack on human dignity or grave humiliation or a degradation of one or more human beings”. Although they emanate from governmental policy, in this week’s study in Judges such a crime is perpetrated by a worthless group of men in Israel. This deplorable regression of morality occurred in the Benjamite town of Gibeah. A Levite from Ephraim had a concubine who had been unfaithful to him and had gone back home. After a while, though, the Levite returned for her, and after staying for four days with her dad they left for Ephraim. They first passed a Canaanite town, Jebus, because it seemed un-

safe, but stopped in Gibeah. No one took them in until another Ephraimite who lived there did so. That night the Gibeahites surrounded the house wanting to molest the Levite, but instead his concubine was thrown out and they raped her all night, leaving her dead. When the Levite discovered this the next morning he dissected her into twelve pieces and sent a piece to each tribe. This moved them to a decisive retribution against both Gibeah and Benjamin, since Gibeah deserved punishment but Benjamin wouldn’t give them up. So, Israel went to war but was defeated the first two days. The third day God led them to set an ambush and they killed 25,100 Benjamites, leaving only 600. This meant that virtually an entire tribe was missing in Israel. To solve

this they slaughtered the Jabesh-Gileadites who had not helped in the battle, even though it had been vowed that anyone who didn’t would be put to death. They then gave their young virgins, 400 of them, to Benjamin. They stilled lacked 200 but had vowed that no one could give their daughters to them. So, they allowed them to capture wives at the annual festival at Shiloh, thus saving Benjamin. Judges concludes with the insight that there was no king in Israel; because everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes such despicable crimes against humanity had occurred.

Study Questions for Judges 19-21

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

<p>1. Scan Judges 19:1-15. What did the Levite’s concubine do (v1-2) and how did he respond (v3)? What occurred (v4-9) and what did the Levite then do (v10-15)? Why did he pass by Jebus for Gibeah (v12)?</p>	
<p>2. In 19:16-26 who helped the pair (v16-17) and what did he do (v18-21)? What happened next (v22) and how did the old man respond (v23-24)? How did the men of Gibeah react (v25) and what did the man do (v25)? What was the outcome (v26)?</p>	
<p>3. From 19:27-30 what was discovered the next morning (v27-28)? What did the Levite do (v28, 29) and what response did this provoke from all who saw it (v30)? Do you agree with what he did?</p>	

(Continued on Next Page)

Judges 19-21 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. From Judges 20:1-7 where did Israel assemble, how many and before whom (v1-2)? What did they ask (v3), what did the Levite report (v4-5) and why had he responded as he had (v6-7)?</p>	
<p>5. According to 20:8-17 what did Israel decide (v8-10, 11) and do (v12-13), and how did Benjamin respond (v13, 14)? Describe Benjamin's (v15-16) and Israel's (v17) armies.</p>	
<p>6. Using 20:18-35 who led Israel into battle and why (v18)? How did phase 1 (v19-21), phase 2 (v24-25) and phase 3 (v29-35) go? What was the response each time (v22-23, 26-28)? Why was phase 3 different (v28)? Apply.</p>	
<p>7. In 20:36-48 how was Benjamin defeated (v36-37, 38-43) and how many were killed at first (v44)? How many were killed next (v45-46) and how many escaped (v47)? What else did Israel do (v48)?</p>	
<p>8. Based on 21:1-7 what had Israel vowed (v1) and what was the result (v2-3)? What was their first response (v3-4) and what was their concern (v5-7)?</p>	
<p>9. Read 21:8-15. What did Israel discover (v8-9) and what action did they then take (v10-11)? What did they determine (v12) and what did they do with this information (v13-14)? Why (v15)?</p>	
<p>10. According to 21:16-25 what problem did the elders face (v16-18) and how did they resolve it (v19-24)? Give examples from Judges of how v25 was demonstrated.</p>	
<p>11 Review the evil perpetrated and the overall results of it in Judges 19-21. What does this teach us about sin, and of the need for a righteous King to lead us?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“And the Lord said, ‘Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.’”

Judges 20:28 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Acting Out—The Mission

(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. Discuss in your group how the Christian life is both easy and hard. Share what the toughest part of living the Christian life is for you.
2. Read Acts 11:19-26 and talk about what it would have been like to be there. Who did they preach the message to and what were the results (v19-21)? How can we apply this?
3. How did Barnabas respond to the large number of converts (v22-23)? How would you describe his “ministry of encouragement”? Share honestly about what discourages us.
4. What wise move did Barnabas make (v24-26)? How does this illustrate the description given of him in these verses? How can we follow this example in everyday life?
5. Which of the marks of a mature disciple—worshiping, walking, or working for Jesus—do you do best and which do you need to work on? Talk about how to do this.
6. Discuss the meaning of the “consumer” vs. “contributor” mindset as it relates to those who are at Celebration. Which are you? How can we become contributors?
7. Specifically talk about how you as a group can take the lead in becoming externally focused, like the Christians at Antioch. How do we bless others as we have been blessed?