

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 10/11/26

Sermon: Ted Rastatter/Prone to Wander

Text: Judges 10:1-16

Questions: Jerry Shiver

This week's message continues in the Book of Judges where the Israelites, following the death of Abimelech, are lead for 23 years by Tola of Issachar and then Jair of Gilead for 22 years. Following the death of Jair the Israelites once again forsake the Lord and adopted every other foreign god from the lands surrounding them. God then gives Israel over to their enemy the Ammonites, for 18 years, until they were in great distress. This time, when Israelites admitted their sin and cried out to the Lord to save them, He refuses because there was no true repentance in their hearts. The Lord told them to go cry to their other gods for rescue, that He would no longer save them. The Israelites continued to plead with God for His mercy. They got rid of their foreign gods and served the Lord. Verse 16 ends saying at this point God could no longer bear Israel's misery.

Main Point: We can learn something about the nature of sin from the Israelites in Judges. Here's an outline: the nature of sin, the nature of judgment, the nature of repentance, and the nature of grace

Discussion Questions:

1. Read verse 6, Exo 19: 5-8, and Rom 1:21-23. What is the Israelites recurring issue? How does it apply to us today? Read Heb 2:1 and Jam 1:14-15. What do these verses say about this aspect of managing sin? Read Jer 17:9 and 1 Pet 5:8 and discuss their application to the question "How did I get here?" Remember this old quote "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay".
2. Read verses 7 -9 and Rom 2:5. What lessons can we learn from the Israelites 18 years of "drifting in sin" where God turns us over to our own desires? How is this part of God's judgement? What is the single most important result that comes from this 18-year period for the Israelites, for ourselves?
3. Read verses 10-14, Isa 29-13, and 2 Cor 7:10. Discuss why God declares He will no longer save them after they have admitted their sin but tells them to pray to their foreign gods. What is missing that God requires?
4. Read verses 15 and first sentence of 16. What appears to have changed with the Israelites in the second plea for God's intervention? Read the last sentence 16. What was God's motivation to help Israel? Was it their repentance or something else? Ted provided two impactful things to remember: Real repentance isn't just about being sad about breaking God's rules it's being sad about breaking God's heart. Repentance is not a way to earn God's mercy. It is our response to it.

Challenge from the Pastor: Take a quick spiritual pulse check.

1. Have you drifted?
2. Have you been mistaking God's patience with you as His approval of your sin?
3. What does your sin actually reveal about what you are worshiping?
4. Do you see repentance as a way to earn God's favor or a response to His grace He has shown in Jesus?