

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

5 July 2026

Judges 1-2:5

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Kraig Neer

Prayers: That we'd live each day in complete obedience instead of "doing what is right in our own eyes" (see Judges 21:25).

Why study the book of Judges? Ted gave 3 reasons:

- a) 2 Tim 3:16 - all scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...;"
- b) The book confronts 2 cultural themes: 1) that people are basically good, and 2) freedom means autonomy; and
- c) It points to a better judge in the person of Jesus, the Christ

Main Point and Summary: The Lord calls his people to courageous and complete obedience. Israel's failure to complete the conquest of Canaan as instructed leads to the angel's declaration that the inhabitants of the land will be a horn in Israel's side, and their gods will also be a snare to them. As a result, Ted talked about three things to keep in mind when fulfilling our calling are:

- a) Common sense does NOT equal God's commands;
- b) Obedience is often impractical; and
- c) Disobedience seems very practical.

Discussion Questions:

1. In Judges 1:3, right after the Lord explicitly tells Judah to go up first against the Canaanites, Judah immediately turns to Simeon to ask for backup. What's the consequence of seeking logical help when you've been called to do something? When have you faced a calling or a decision that felt completely impractical or beyond your ability? Did you lean into "logical assistance" (like Judah did), or did you step out in solo dependence on the Lord? What was the result?
2. Israel didn't completely reject God at first; they just failed to *complete* the conquest. They settled for a partial victory because clearing out the rest of the land seemed too impractical. Israel's failure to *completely* obey led to a lingering snare that tripped up generations to come. Where are you tempted to settle for "partial obedience" or compromise with a habit, an attitude, or a relationship because taking it to 100% feels too impractical or uncomfortable?
3. Scripture is full of moments where God's logic looks like foolishness to the world. Find 1 or 2 examples where God tells us to do the exact opposite of our human nature. You are not limited to this list, these are just examples:

Verse(s)	Common Sense	Godly Sense
Matthew 16:24	Take care of yourself and cast the cross away	Deny yourself and take up your cross
Matthew 16:25		
2 Cor 12:10		
Luke 6:27-28		
Matthew 20:16		
James 1:2		
Proverbs 3:5-6		
Acts 20:35		