

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Judges – verse by verse

**Scripture(s) for Today:** Judges 21 – the end of the book; trying to fix problems without God

Today's Message:

***"Damage Control"***



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw the leaders of Israel gather at Mizpeh to make a decision to put away evil from Israel. Unfortunately, the Benjamites chose to protect their sin rather than do what was right before the Lord and their brethren; the effect was a very costly civil war. Today, it will seem clear that God's people were excessive in their attempt to confront the sin of their brother. Words of **REMORSE** will be spoken as they get started on the *damage control* and attempt to **FIX** the problem without God. Now, there are times when people go to insane lengths to try to solve problems that make them look **BAD**. As we close out the book of Judges, there is no doubt that God wants us to see what life looks like when we are living outside of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and doing that which is right in our own eyes! Ugh.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### A. The Text Judges 21:1-25

#### #1. *The Hearts* – the men of Israel **BLAMED** God for the sin and death. (1-6)

➤ *The men of Israel showed no repentance over the excessive harm caused.*

#### ✓ WHAT HAPPENED

- The men of Israel **had sworn an oath** regarding their **DAUGHTERS**.
- The men of Israel **had sworn a great oath** for tribes not in **ATTENDANCE**.
- The people came to **the house of God** with emotions and crying.
- The people **blamed God** for what had happened with Benjamin.
- The people **built an altar** and **offered sacrifices** – without **GOD**.

#### ✓ GOD'S WORD ON THE MATTER

- **Jephthah** – And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD... **Jdg 11:30,31**
- **Saul** – Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be... **1Sam 14:24,28,29**
- **Solomon** – Be not rash with thy mouth...utter any thing before the LORD. **Ecc5:2**
- **Herod** – And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask... **Mark 6:23**
- And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all... **Josh 7:7-9**
- O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways... **Isa 63:17**
- Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar... **Josh 22:26,19,23**

**NOTE** There are similarities here with other stories in Judges like Gideon and Jephthah.

**2022 VISION:** *This is our time!*  
*Making disciples and caring for souls!*

**#2. The Schemes – the people tried to FIX the problems without God. (7-24)**

➤ *The leaders of Israel tried to cover up problems resulting in more pain and death.*

✓ **WHAT HAPPENED**

- They tried to fix the “*lack of wives*” problem with a plan to KILL more people.
- 12,000 of the “*valiantest*” were sent to destroy men, women, and CHILDREN.
- The 400 young virgins FOUND were not even sufficient for the 600 men!
- The 600 Benjamites came peaceably but may not have WANTED all the virgins!
- The leaders concocted another scheme involving a feast of the LORD in Shiloh.
- The plan involved the Benjamites STEALING away the daughters of Shiloh.
- They knew the fathers of the young ladies and brethren would be very upset!
- The 600 Benjamites executed the plan, took wives, and went back to their land.
- *Every man* of Israel departed thence having “*solved the problem*” in their EYES.

W1828: “*sufficed*”  
Satisfied; adequately  
supplied

✓ **GOD’S WORD ON THE MATTER**

- *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end...* **Pr 14:12; 16:25**
- *There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet...* **Prov 30:12**
- *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate... destruction...* **Mt 7:13,14**
- *What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?* **Rom 6:21**
- *For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing...* **Gal 6:3**
- *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things...* **Eph 5:6**
- *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own...* **Jas 1:22**

**NOTE** It is a day for honesty before God and men; our godless schemes are destructive.

**#3. The Need – a clear EXAMPLE of what “*right in his own eyes*” looks like. (25)**

➤ *The book of Judges ends with a verse that points directly to our time in history.*

✓ **THE MISSING “INGREDIENTS” IN THIS CHAPTER**

- HUMILITY – consider how God might have been able to work with brokenness.
- REPENTANCE – there is no record of repentance toward God in this story.
- COMPASSION – the people and leaders in this story did not care about others.

**NOTE** If these are missing from your life, you will repeat “*Judges*” over and over again.

**B. The Lessons** (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. *You must immediately STOP trying to fix your problems in the flesh without God.*

❖ **Question:** *What are you trying to hide? Is image so important to you?* **Ps10:11; Mk8:36**

2. *It is possible for you to go through all the MOTIONS of a Christian without God.*

❖ **Question:** *Do you really love Jesus Christ? Do you need to repent today?* **2Cor 7:9-10**

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