

# Judges: Broken Heroes/Faithful God

## JUDGES 19-21

### The Downward Spiral Pt. 2

#### Judges 2:7, 10-12 (NIV)

7 The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.

10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. 11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt.

#### Judges 21:25 (NLT)

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

#### 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people!

### 1. Sexual Immorality

#### Judges 19:1-2 (CSB)

In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a Levite staying in a remote part of the hill country of Ephraim acquired a woman from Bethlehem in Judah as his concubine. 2 But she was unfaithful to him and left him for her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah. She was there for four months.

#### Romans 1:24-27

So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. ***As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies.*** They traded the ***truth*** about God for a ***lie***.

Even the ***women*** turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the ***men***, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

### 2. Sensual Indulgence

#### Judges 19:3-4 (CSB)

Then her husband got up and followed her to speak kindly to her and bring her back. He had his servant with him and a pair of donkeys.

So she brought him to her father's house, and when the girl's father saw him, he gladly welcomed him. His father-in-law, the girl's father, detained him, and he stayed with him for three days. They ate, drank, and spent the nights there.

#### Judges 19:6 (CSB)

"Please agree to stay overnight and enjoy yourself."

### **Judges 19:8 (NLT)**

On the morning of the fifth day he was up early again, ready to leave, and again the woman's father said, "Have something to eat; then you can leave later this afternoon." So they had another day of feasting.

### **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)**

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves... without love...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power.

## **3. Sickening Inhumanity**

### **Judges 19:21-22 (NIV)**

21 So he took him into his house and fed his donkeys. After they had washed their feet, they had something to eat and drink.

22 While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him."

### **Romans 1:24-27 (NLT)**

24 So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. ***As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies.***

26 ...God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the **women** turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the **men**, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men...

### **Romans 1:32 (CSB)**

Although they know God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve death—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

### **Luke 17:26-30 (NLT)**

26 "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. 27 In those days, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 "And the world will be as it was ***in the days of Lot***. People went about their daily business— eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building—until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Yes, it will be 'business as usual' right up to the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

### **Judges 19:23-26 (NLT)**

23 The old man stepped outside to talk to them. "No, my brothers, don't do such an evil thing. For this man is a guest in my house, and such a thing would be shameful. 24 Here, take my virgin daughter and this man's concubine. I will bring them out to you, and you can abuse them and do whatever you like. But don't do such a shameful thing to this man."

25 But they wouldn't listen to him. So the Levite took hold of his concubine and pushed her out the door. The men of the town abused her all night, taking turns raping her until morning. Finally, at dawn they let her go.

26 At daybreak the woman returned to the house where her husband was staying. She collapsed at the door of the house and lay there until it was light.

#### **Isaiah 3:8-9 (NIV)**

Jerusalem staggers, Judah is falling; their words and deeds are against the Lord, defying his glorious presence. The look on their faces testifies against them; **they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it.** Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves.

### **4. Selfish Indifference**

#### **Judges 19:27-28 (NCV)**

In the morning when the Levite got up, he opened the door of the house and went outside to go on his way. But his concubine was lying at the doorway of the house, with her hands on the doorsill. The Levite said to her, "Get up; let's go." But she did not answer. So he put her on his donkey and went home.

### **5. Shocking Indecency**

#### **Judges 19:29-30 (NIV)**

When he reached home, he took a knife and cut up his concubine, limb by limb, into twelve parts and sent them into all the areas of Israel.

30 Everyone who saw it was saying to one another, "Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Just imagine! We must do something! So speak up!"

### **6. Stubborn Insolence**

#### **Judges 20:12-13 (NLT)**

The Israelites sent messengers to the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What a terrible thing has been done among you! Give up those evil men, those troublemakers from Gibeah, so we can execute them and purge Israel of this evil."

But the people of Benjamin would not listen.

#### **Judges 20:14-15 (NLT)**

Instead, they came from their towns and gathered at Gibeah to fight the Israelites. In all, 26,000 of their warriors armed with swords arrived in Gibeah to join the 700 elite troops who lived there.

### **7. Spiritual Ignorance**

#### **Judges 21:25 (NLT)**

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

#### **Proverbs 14:12 (NASB)**

There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way of death.

#### **Romans 6:23a**

For the wages of sin is death...

**Romans 6:23b**

...but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 5:20b**

But where sin multiplied, God's grace multiplied even more!

**1. We live so close to Jesus that, in His strength, we walk in victory over the sin in our own lives.**

**1 Timothy 4:16 (NIRV)**

Be careful of how you live and what you believe. Never give up. Then you will save yourself and those who hear you.

**2. We dedicate ourselves to prayer, recognizing that the battle belongs to the Lord and that we must use the spiritual weapons He has provided us.**

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (Voice)**

For though we walk in the world, we do not fight according to this world's rules of warfare. The weapons of the war we're fighting are not of this world but are powered by God and effective at tearing down the strongholds erected against His truth.

5 We are demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. We are taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to the Anointed One.

**Ephesians 6:10 -11, 18 (NIV)**

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

**3. We do everything we can to get the Good News of Jesus out to as many people, in as many places, by as many avenues as possible.**