

Sermon Title: Glass Houses: Easy Like Sunday Morning
Scripture: Judges 17-18

What they're doing:
notice **the mom**:

Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim ² said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse—I have that silver with me; I took it.” Then his mother said, **“The Lord bless you, my son!”** ³ When he returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, she said, **“I solemnly consecrate my silver to the Lord for my son to make an image overlaid with silver. I will give it back to you.”** ⁴ So after he returned the silver to his mother, **she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to a silversmith**, who used them to make the idol. And it was put in Micah’s house.
Judges 17:1-4

The mom is saying the right words but doing the wrong things.

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
Isaiah 29:13

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰ **Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.** My brothers and sisters, this should not be.
James 3:9-10

The mom is embodying a disconnect between our words, our hearts, and our actions.

notice **Micah**:

Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim ² said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and **about which I heard you utter a curse—I have that silver with me; I took it.**”
Judges 17:1-2

Micah is doing a good spiritual action from a terrible motivation.

Now this man Micah **had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some household gods and installed one of his sons as his priest.** ⁶ In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. ⁷ A young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, who had been living within the clan of Judah, ⁸ left that town in search of some other place to stay. On his way he came to Micah’s house in the hill country of Ephraim. ⁹ Micah asked him, “Where are you from?” “I’m a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah,” he said, “and I’m looking for a place to stay.” ¹⁰ Then Micah said to him, “Live with me and be my father and priest, and I’ll give you ten shekels of silver a year, your clothes and your food.” ¹¹ So the Levite agreed to live with him, and the young man became like one of his sons to him. ¹² Then Micah installed the Levite, and the

young man became his priest and lived in his house. ¹³ And Micah said, “Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest.”
Judges 17:5-13

Micah is living with *à la carte* spirituality.

notice the priest:

A young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, who had been living within the clan of Judah, ⁸ **left that town in search of some other place to stay.** On his way he came to Micah’s house in the hill country of Ephraim. ⁹ Micah asked him, “Where are you from?” “I’m a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah,” he said, “and I’m looking for a place to stay.” ¹⁰ Then Micah said to him, **“Live with me and be my father and priest, and I’ll give you ten shekels of silver a year, your clothes and your food.”** ¹¹ **So the Levite agreed...**
Judges 17:7-11

When the five men went into Micah’s house and took the idol, the ephod and the household gods, the priest said to them, “What are you doing?” ¹⁹ They answered him, “Be quiet! Don’t say a word. Come with us, and be our father and priest. **Isn’t it better that you serve a tribe and clan in Israel as priest rather than just one man’s household?”** ²⁰ **The priest was very pleased.** He took the ephod, the household gods and the idol and went along with the people.
Judges 18:18-20

The Levitical priests—indeed, the whole tribe of Levi—are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the food offerings presented to the Lord, for that is their inheritance. ² They shall have no inheritance among their fellow Israelites; **the Lord is their inheritance, as he promised them.** ³ This is the share due the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the internal organs and the meat from the head. ⁴ You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep, ⁵ for the Lord your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the Lord’s name always.
Deuteronomy 18:1-5

The priest is elevating personal comfort above his God commitments.

Then they said to him, “Please inquire of God to learn whether our journey will be successful.” ⁶ The priest answered them, **“Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord’s approval.”**
Judges 18:5-6

The priest is elevating personal comfort above his spiritual leadership.

We will always find spiritual people to affirm our sinful practices.

notice The Danites:

In those days Israel had no king. And in those days the tribe of **the Danites was seeking a place of their own where they might settle, because they had not yet come into an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.** ² So the Danites sent five of their leading men from Zorah and

Eshtaol to spy out the land and explore it. These men represented all the Danites. They told them, “Go, explore the land.”
Judges 18:1-2

The Amorites confined the Danites to the hill country, not allowing them to come down into the plain.
Judges 1:34

When **the territory of the Danites was lost to them, they went up and attacked Leshem, took it, put it to the sword and occupied it.** They settled in Leshem and named it Dan after their ancestor.
Joshua 19:47

The Danites are responding to resistance with self-reliance, not God-dependence.

Finally, **as the rear guard** for all the units, the divisions of the camp of Dan set out under their standard. Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai was in command.
Numbers 10:25

From the descendants of Dan: All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.³⁹ **The number from the tribe of Dan was 62,700.**
Numbers 1:38-39

The Danites are attempting to secure through force what can only be obtained through faith.

Faith takes faith.

“I do believe; **help me** overcome my unbelief!”
Mark 9:24

Why they're doing it:

And Micah said, “**Now I know that the Lord will be good to me,** since this Levite has become my priest.”
Judges 17:13

Then they said to him, “**Please inquire of God to learn whether our journey will be successful.**”.....Come on, let's attack them! We have seen the land, and it is very good. Aren't you going to do something? Don't hesitate to go there and take it over. ¹⁰ When you get there, you will find an unsuspecting people and **a spacious land that God has put into your hands,** a land that lacks nothing whatever.”
Judges 18:6 & 9-10

Everyone pursues God's blessings on their terms—God invites us to experience life on His.

*How they lead us **towards better**:*

In those days **Israel had no king**; everyone did as they saw fit.
Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25

But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but **they have rejected me as their king**.

1 Samuel 8:6-7

“The Lord reigns for ever and ever.”

Exodus 15:18

Jesus is a better protector of children.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Matthew 19:14-15

Jesus is a better son.

But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Hebrews 3:6

Jesus is a better priest.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:14-15

Jesus is a better warrior.

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:11-13

Jesus is better.

Become more **attentive to & appreciative of God’s voice.**

Become more **committed to hearing & doing the word of God.**