

SERMON NOTES:

A Journey Through Judges and the Cost of Compromise

Part 14: Everyone Did What Was Right...

BIG Idea: When everyone becomes their own authority, compromise becomes normal; only surrender to Jesus, the true King, can break the cycle.

Application: Stop asking only, “What seems right to me?” Bring every area of your life back under the loving authority of Jesus.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>

Who gets to define what is right?

Judges 21:25 (NLT)

²⁵ In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

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1. When God no longer defines what is right, the self takes the throne.

Deuteronomy 12:8 (ESV)

⁸ “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes...”

Half-hearted faith in one generation can become no faith in the next.

We do not truly know who our king is until His Word crosses our preference.

2. When self becomes sovereign, rebellion gets renamed righteousness.

- Truth becomes personal.
- Morality becomes self-defined.
- Freedom becomes the right to answer to no one.
- Desire becomes identity.
- Conviction becomes intolerance.
- Christianity is accepted as long as it affirms what we have already decided is right.

Have we learned to condemn self-rule in the world while quietly practicing it in our own lives?

Romans 12:2a (NLT)

² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Culture does not have to make us hate Jesus, if it can persuade us to remake Jesus in our own image.

3. Only the true King can break the cycle of self-rule.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NLT)

²⁵ “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.”

Luke 6:46 (NLT)

⁴⁶ “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?”

Jesus is not asking to be added to your life; He claims the throne.