

SERMON NOTES:

A Journey Through Judges and the Cost of Compromise

Part 11: When Faith Becomes Custom-Made

BIG Idea: When faith becomes custom-made, we stop worshiping God as He is and begin reshaping Him into someone who serves us.

Application: Every believer must continually resist the temptation to customize Christianity around personal preferences and instead joyfully submit every area of life to the authority of Jesus Christ and His Word. Authentic faith is not edited to fit our lives; our lives are surrendered to fit God's revealed truth. As the Church, we must faithfully preserve and intentionally pass on an unedited faith to the next generation.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

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Society does not collapse first. Worship collapses first.

Am I worshipping God as He has revealed Himself...or the version of God I've quietly reconstructed to fit my preferences?

Main Text: Judges 17-18.

Judges 19:1a (NLT) "In those days Israel had no king."

1. Faith becomes custom-made when we redefine worship.

Judges 17:13 (NLT)

"Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest."

Exodus 20:3:6 (NLT)

³"You must not have any other god but me.

⁴"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ⁶But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 (NLT)

²⁹"When the Lord your God goes ahead of you and destroys the nations and you drive them out and live in their land, ³⁰do not fall into the trap of following their customs and worshiping their gods. Do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How do these nations worship their gods? I want to follow their example.' ³¹You must not worship the Lord your God the way the other nations worship their gods, for

they perform for their gods every detestable act that the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters as sacrifices to their gods.

³² “So be careful to obey all the commands I give you. You must not add anything to them or subtract anything from them.

Every generation must decide whether Christianity will shape us...or whether we will reshape Christianity.

You don't have to reject God to drift from Him. Sometimes you simply redefine Him.

2. Faith becomes custom-made when we recruit voices that affirm us.

Judges 17:10-11 (NLT)

¹⁰ “Stay here with me,” Micah said, “and you can be a father and priest to me. I will give you ten pieces of silver a year, plus a change of clothes and your food.” ¹¹ The Levite agreed to this, and the young man became like one of Micah's sons.

Malachi 2:7 (NLT)

⁷ “The words of a priest's lips should preserve knowledge of God, and people should go to him for instruction, for the priest is the messenger of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.”

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT)

³ For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

1 John 4:1 (NLT)

¹ Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

Acts 17:11 (NLT)

¹¹ And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

Judges 18:30 (NLT)

³⁰ Then they set up the carved image, and they appointed Jonathan son of Gershom, son of Moses,^[a] as their priest. This family continued as priests for the tribe of Dan until the Exile.

Hillel Millgram - *“In three generations the seed of Moses has come to this.”*

Faith is never inherited. It must be intentionally handed down.

It takes only one generation to customize what previous generations faithfully preserved.

3. Faith becomes custom-made when we seek God's approval instead of God's will.

Matthew 6:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)

⁹ We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

James 4:13-15 (NLT)

¹³ Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." ¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."

Romans 12:2 (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. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

The greatest danger isn't losing your faith – it's reshaping it until it never challenges you.

Counterfeit faith doesn't remove Jesus from the throne – it quietly moves Him into the passenger seat.

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.