

Wednesday Night, Survey Service: Week 22
Judges 15 – 1 Samuel 2:21, Luke 16 – 18

Judges 15: Donkey's Jawbone

Key Point:

Our rage and anger only leads to destruction, not solutions but even in our emotional weakness, God can and will bring about His will through us. Better to be driven by God and His word than our emotions.

Key Verse: Judges 15:15 (NLT)

Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it.

Judges 16: Delilah

Key Point:

Compromise and a lack of humility in obedience will bring down even the strongest and most talented of believers. God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Key Verse: Judges 16:4 (NLT)

Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek.

Judges 17: Micah's Levite

Key Point:

People who reduce the worship of God into a superstitious effort at manipulating God for good favor or luck will always fall into gross disobedience and blasphemous mockery of the true worship of God.

Key Verse: Judges 17:6 (NLT)

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

Judges 18: Danite migration

Key Point:

Once we fall away from the instruction of God we become increasingly irrational. Immorality always leads to greater immorality.

Key Verse: Judges 18:31 (NLT)

So Micah's carved image was worshiped by the tribe of Dan as long as the Tabernacle of God remained at Shiloh.

Judges 19: Twelve concubine pieces**Key Point:**

The perversion of men knows no bounds, but two wrongs never make anything right. Our obedience to the principles of Godliness must never be sacrificed for our own self-interest.

Key Verse: Judges 19:29 (NLT)

When he got home, he took a knife and cut his concubine's body into twelve pieces. Then he sent one piece to each tribe throughout all the territory of Israel.

Judges 20: Fall of Benjamin**Key Point:**

God does not overlook sin. In righteous indignation we can react to the sins of others but if we are not humble and confessing our own sins we can suffer defeat even trying to do the right thing.

Key Verse: Judges 20:46-47 (NLT)

So that day the tribe of Benjamin lost 25,000 strong warriors armed with swords, 47 leaving only 600 men who escaped to the rock of Rimmon, where they lived for four months.

Judges 21: Benjamin's wives**Key Point:**

We should simply confess sin and do the right thing instead of trying to make two wrongs equal a right.

Key Verse: Judges 21:25 (NLT)

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

Ruth 1: Ruth won't go back**Key Point:**

Compromise never leads anyone to convert to following God, but relationship and love can lead someone to turn to the one true God.

Key Verse: Ruth 1:16 (NLT)

But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God."

Ruth 2: Boaz sees Ruth**Key Point:**

Character, good reputation, hard work and Godliness are by far more important than national origin or background so look for these things in potential relationships.

Key Verse: Ruth 2:5 (NLT)

Then Boaz asked his foreman, "Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?"

Ruth 3: Will you marry me?**Key Point:**

It is easy to play the victim but better to walk in humility and submission, trusting that God will open doors as He wills.

Key Verse: Ruth 3:9 (NLT)

"Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she replied. "Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer."

Ruth 4: Boaz marries Ruth**Key Point:**

Sometimes following God's lead looks like a second-rate option but God is faithful and in the end, if we truly seek Him, He will guide our steps into a blessing we could never have foreseen.

Key Verse: Ruth 4:13 (NLT)

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son.

1st Samuel 1: Hannah wants a son**Key Point:**

God hears the cry of the heart. He is not swayed by ritual or sacrifice but by sincerity of heart.

Key Verse: 1st Samuel 1:13 (NLT)

Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, he thought she had been drinking.

1st Samuel 2: Eli's sons are worthless**Key Point:**

Humility and obedience are the key to God's blessing but just verbally complaining about sin yet doing nothing to stop sin in your life will only lead to a loss of blessing.

Key Verse: 1st Samuel 2:12 (NLT)

Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels who had no respect for the Lord

Luke 16: Rich Regret**Key Point:**

Miracles won't convince people if their hearts are locked on material gain so use worldly wealth wisely and with an eye toward what is eternally valuable.

Key Verse: Luke 16:31 (NLT)

But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'

Luke 17: As In Noah's Day**Key Point:**

If we are expected to forgive a person for the same sin, over and over, if the person repents with sincerity – then how much more will God forgive us?

Key Verse: Luke 17:3 - 4 (NLT)

So watch yourselves! "If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. 4 Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive."

Luke 18: God is good**Key Point:**

We cannot afford to have any temporary thing take higher value in our hearts than our love for God and we need to persist in our prayer in order to receive from God.

Key Verse: Luke 18:19 (NLT)

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is truly good."