

Judges 19

Jesus

- In those days...there was no king in Israel **Lawlessness**
- Everyone did what was right in their own eyes **Godlessness**

Q. Does the natural man have the potential to do good?

A. No. Men are born separated from God w/no ability to do good.

Genesis 2:17 ... of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you **shall surely die.**"

Genesis 3:4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die...**" [Ate and were separated from their Creator] **8** And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

- One act of disobedience separated man from God
- **What has sin done to Creation?** Shock wave reverberated through all of Creation
 1. **Died Spiritually** Death meant separation to the Jewish mind
 2. **Began to die Physically** No longer clothed to live forever
- **Man began perfect...**but we chose to disobey a Holy God

Ecclesiastes 7:29 Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

- Sin/Death entered the world and control given over to Satan for 6000 years

Isaiah 25:7 And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the **covering cast over all people**, And **the veil that is spread over all nations.** **8** He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces...

- **How bad is our sin?** How deep is the Depravity of man without God?
- Our sin seen on full display at the foot of the cross...

Matthew 27:42 "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him."

History of man is a History of Cruelty

- **Same Lawlessness today;** despising of God-given authority
- **Same Godlessness today;** No fear of the Living God/ No thought Coming judgement

Our sin/depravity w/out Christ on full display at cross and in this **sordid chapter in Judges** Clear that man needs to be saved; i.e. reconnected to our Creator through Jesus Christ

- What we are all capable of without Christ?

I. Levite's Concubine

1 And it came to pass in those days, when there was **no king in Israel**, that

there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

- **In those days:** Israel now in Promised Land. No King
 1. Lawlessness
 2. Godlessness prevail...
- **Another Levite:** Not Micah's Levite who became Dan's Levite
 1. **Levites:** Supposed to be those who help priests in Temple of God
 2. **Digressed** into: "Holy men" hired out to the best offer/highest bidder

Took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem?

All the benefits of wife without the commitment. Holy Man is shacking up.

2 But his concubine **played the harlot against him**, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months.

- **We don't need a Marriage Certificate...**It's just a piece of paper

Sex apart from Marriage as recognized by authorities in place by God [Rom. 13] **is sin**

- **Fornication:** gr. por-na'-ä Illicit sexual intercourse...

1 Corinthians 7:2... because of sexual immorality, let each man have his **own wife**, and let each woman have her **own husband**.

- Sex is to be within the bounds of marriage between a **one man/one woman**

Ephesians 5:3 ...fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, **let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints**

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, **fornication**, uncleanness, lewdness, [etc.] **21b...** those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- Doesn't matter if 99.99 % of the world is doing it. God does not grade on curve...

Increasing Godlessness simply means judgement is near...

Genesis 6:5 ...the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. [8 saved]

- Worldwide Judgement will happen again...

Luke 17:26 ...as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the **flood came and destroyed them all.**

Fornication is common today...Exemplary of Lawlessness/Godlessness

If he/she is sleeping w/you w/out commitment who else will they sleep with?

- Concubine leaves Levite to sleep w/others/ Ends up at father's for four months

3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, **he was glad to meet him.**

- After four months of no free milk from the cow...**Levite woos her back to him.**
- Father welcomes the Levite into his home...

4 Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank and lodged there. 5 Then it came to pass on the **fourth day** that they arose early in the morning, and he stood to depart; but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "**Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread**, and afterward go your way." 6 So they sat down, and the two of them ate and drank together. Then the young woman's father said to the man, "Please be content to stay all night, and let your heart be merry." 7 And when the man stood to depart, his father-in-law urged him; so he lodged there again. 8 Then he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart, but the young woman's father said, "Please refresh your heart." So they delayed until afternoon; and both of them ate. 9 And when the man stood to depart—he and his concubine and his servant—his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, "Look, the day is now drawing toward evening; please spend the night. See, the day is coming to an end; lodge here, that your heart may be merry. Tomorrow go your way early, so that you may get home." 10 However, [**this time**] the man was not willing to spend that night...

- Levite/Concubine go out into the night...
- **Since the fall Satan has been ruler of this dark world**

John 13:30 [Judas] Having received the piece of bread, [Judas possessed by Satan] ...went out immediately. And it was night.

- It has been Satan's world for 6000 years...

Luke 22:52 [Jesus to the Satan led mob] "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. **But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**"

- **It's been Satan's hour:** Satan is the ruler of this world [John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11]

What happened to Creation? What in the world is going on? One explanation...

Sin changed everything...Cursed world full of wicked men/woman in need of Savior

John 3:19 ...this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.

It will be dark until the Light comes back once again...
...But when the Light comes...it will never be dark again

- **Levite/Concubine head into the night...**

9b... so [the Levite] rose and departed, and came opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). With him were the two saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him. 11 They were near Jebus, and the **day was far spent**; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it." 12 But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners, who are not of the children of Israel; we will go on to Gibeah."

- **Jebus; i.e. Jerusalem:** Not conquered until David 100 years later
- **Exhausted**
 1. **Servant:** Let's stay in Canaanite country
 2. **Levite:** We need to find our own people

13 So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and spend the night in **Gibeah or in Ramah.**" 14 And they passed by and went their way; and the sun went down on them near **Gibeah**, which belongs to **Benjamin**. 15 They turned aside there to go in to lodge in Gibeah. And when he went in, he sat down in the open square of the city, for no one would take them into his house to spend the night.

- People of God turn them away?
- God calls us to hospitality especially as things worsen...

1 Peter 4:7 ... the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 9 **Be hospitable** to one another without grumbling.

Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to **entertain strangers**, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Matthew 25:35 ... I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; **I was a stranger and you took Me in**; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.

- **Temptation in end times:** Keep to ourselves. Take care of number one...

Matthew 24:12 And because **lawlessness will abound**, the **love of many will grow cold.**

- Levite, Concubine, Servant, 2 Donkeys in square of **Israelite town Gibeah**
- **Gibeah belongs to Israelite Tribe of Benjamin**

16 Just then an old man came in from his work in the field at evening, who also was from the mountains of Ephraim; he was **staying in Gibeah**, whereas the **men of the place were Benjamites**. 17 And when he raised

his eyes, he saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?"¹⁸ So he said to him, "We are passing **from Bethlehem in Judah** toward the remote mountains of Ephraim; I am from there. I went to Bethlehem in Judah; now I am going to the **house of the Lord**. But there is no one who will take me into his house, ¹⁹ although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man who is with your servant; there is no lack of anything."

- **Old man shows up:** From Ephraim but working here in Gibeah of Benjamin
- **Levite:**
 1. We are on our way to the House of God in Shiloh
 2. We don't need anything but a place to stay...

²⁰ And the old man said, "Peace be with you! However, let all your needs be **my responsibility**; only **do not spend the night** in the open square." ²¹ So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

- **Hospitality:** Fed donkeys, washed feet after warning them...

Do not spend the night in the open square; i.e. City Center of Gibeah of Benjamin

SUMMARY Levite's Concubine

II. Gibeah's Crime

²² As they were **enjoying themselves**, suddenly certain men of the city, **perverted men**, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!"

- **Enjoying themselves:** Playing scrabble and such...
- **Perverted Men:** lit. Sons of Belial. Wicked. Ungodly. Worthless. Base fellows

The verb form of the term beat on the door indicates that there was an increasingly loud pounding on the door. This was in no way a polite or casual request. [Guzik]

We know you took in a stranger. Bring him out that we may have sex with him?
Perverted Men? Men of Israel from the Tribe of Benjamin want sex with Levite

²³ But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage. [vile, senseless folly] ²⁴ Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"

- **Descriptive not Prescriptive:** Describes not condones what is happening

1. **As in Days of Noah:** Every intent of thoughts man heart only evil continually
2. **As in Days of Lot:** Aggressive/Hostile homosexuality a sign of **near judgment**

Genesis 19:1 Now the **two angels came to Sodom** in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom...**4** Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. **5** And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that **we may know them carnally.**" [lot negotiates by offering his daughter... **10** But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. **11** And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

- **Old Man: Take the two women instead of the Levite**
- Humble them/Do what you want/Leave this Levite alone?

25 But the men **would not heed him**. So the man **took his concubine and brought her out to them**. And they **knew her and abused her all night until morning**; and when the day began to break, **they let her go**.

- Levite throw his girlfriend to the wolves: Commitment? Just a piece of paper?
- Raped her/Abused her all night/Let her go

26 Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and **fell down at the door** of the man's house where her master was, till it was light. **27** When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, **there was his concubine**, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold. **28** And he said to her, "**Get up and let us be going.**" But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

God's heart is broken for what man has become...

I am sorry that I have made them...**But Noah** found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

- Gibeah would be a byword for the deepest depravity of man...

Hosea 9:9 They are deeply corrupted, **As in the days of Gibeah**. He will remember their iniquity; He will punish their sins. [c.f. 10:9]

- Concubine is dead on threshold. Levite throws her on donkey heads home to Ephraim
- Was he ever planning to go to the **House of the Lord** in Shiloh?

29 When [the Levite] entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. **30** And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!"

- Levite cuts dead concubine into 12 pieces sending on to each of the 12 tribes
- What has happened to us? We are no different than when we were set free from

Egypt

This was an obviously grotesque way to deliver a message, but the method worked. It was tragic that the Levite did not show this kind of concern for righteousness earlier. [Guzik]

God's heart is broken for what man has become...

I am sorry that I have made them... **But Noah** found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

- Did God not know what would become of man? That man would sin?
- Yes...But for the sake those who find grace in Lord **He created man to be with Him**

And made a way through the cross...

Colossians 1:19... it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who **once were alienated** and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now **He has reconciled**

Jesus hung on the Cross for the sins of the Levite...sins the Concubine...sins the old man that offered his own daughter, sins perverted men and for our sin **to reconcile us to God**

- **Reconcile:** gr. *ä-po-kä-täl-lä's*-so lit. to bring back to former state of harmony

There is only one explanation for the cruelty of man...

We are not born good. We are all born enemies of God. **Then God intervened...**

Ephesians 2:5 ... even when **we were dead** in trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ ...by grace you have been saved

Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.10 For if when **we were enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Reconciled back to a Holy God through the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross