

# Judges 19-21 – 9 December 2021

## “Seeing Through The Moral Decay”

### Introduction – **THIS MESSAGE IS RATED R**

\*Book of Judges’ theme is “*everyone did that which was right in their own eyes*”. Therefore, a cycle of sin & deliverance develops where God raises up judges

\*We just finished that section, and chap 17-21 is an appendix showing the moral decay during that time

\*Chap 19-21 today is one story and takes place very early in the period of Judges (Phinehas is High Priest)

\*Moral decay is one thing, but many are convinced that THEIR sin is ok while others are corrupt

\*When you ignore God as King, you have no compass to declare right from wrong, everything become right

\*Only problem is my “right” conflicts w/ your “right”

**\*Today, we’ll take away 3 lessons from moral decay (b/c left to ourselves we decay, not prosper)**

# **1<sup>st</sup> lesson learned from moral decay is that you can't side with evil and expect not to be bitten (Chap 19:1-30)**

## Intro

1. There'll be civil war against tribe of Benjamin
2. This chapter sets up the reasons for that war

## Read Chap 19:1-4

1. Concubine was a lot like a legal mistress
  - a. Some think is so trendy or modern to be sleeping around w/ a girl on the side, nope!
  - b. It's been around for a long time!
2. So many "habits that cause pain" (sin) here
  - a. Levites were to represent God (marriage)
  - b. He wanted sex without the commitment
3. 'No king in Israel' – Imagine 1 week in Chambersburg w/o any law enforcement or police
  - a. Levite did what was right to him (getting a concubine), & she did what was right to her (cheating on him)

## Read Chap 19:5-10

1. Father-in-law clearly wanting to keep his son-in-law around longer

## Read Chap 19:11-12

1. Jerusalem was still in the hands of the Jebusites until the time of King David
2. Indication is “we’re better than these Jebusites”, what!
3. Interesting how other people’s sin is repulsing, but our own we can’t even see

## Read Chap 19:13-15

1. Not even common hospitality was shown them

## Read Chap 19:16-20

1. Old man of Ephraim took in his fellow tribesman while they were both in Benjamin
2. The old man probably knew of the wicked people that would be out that night

## Read Chap 19:21-24

1. Customs of hospitality demanded protection of guests, but doesn't excuse this allowance of sin.
2. This is the same situation as Sodom
3. The very same sin (sexual sin) that they were involved in, is now coming back to harm them

## Read Chap 19:25-28

1. What abuse! No answer b/c she was dead
  - a. Where's the man's compassion?
2. Christianity elevated women to equal station
  - a. Read Gal 3:28 – When we stop following God, we find ourselves following the culture
3. Many cultures today **STILL** treat women less
  - a. Famous account of Lara Logan raped 2011

## Read Chap 19:29-30

1. This Levite sent a call to action to the whole nation. But what action will they take?
2. We need to stay in the place where even the smallest of sins **SHOCKS** us

## **2<sup>nd</sup> lesson learned from moral decay is that you can't remove cancer with an infected scalpel (Chap 20:1-48)**

Read Chap 20:1-2

1. This national assembly is just a few miles north of Gibeon where this happened

Read Chap 20:3-7

1. Levite repeats events & asks for THEIR counsel
2. Didn't need their counsel, God's Word already declared what to do – their ways were evil

Read Chap 20:8-11

1. This was proper of the nation to come together in this way as God commanded (Deut 13:12-18)

Read Chap 20:12-13

1. Notice they intend to judge only the sinners

Read Chap 20:14-17

1. 400,000 of 11 tribes vs 26,700 of Benjamin

## Read Chap 20:18

1. THEY had a plan & wanted God to bless it
  - a. They just assumed they knew what to do
  - b. This was their problem back at AI
2. “When you do go up, it’s always Judah (praise) first” (Judges 1)

## Read Chap 20:19-28

1. Ark at Shiloh and Phinehas by name, places this story early in the period of the judges
2. Two waves of defeat after asking the Lord, “who should go first” & “shall I go again”.
3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> time the question of “shall I go again” is met w/ a prophesy of victory to come
4. Why would God have them lose twice?
  - a. B/c you can’t remove the cancer with an infected scalpel
    - i. We tend to make the enemy the other guy, when the worse enemy is within us
    - ii. Deal with the enemy within first

- b. You can do the right thing in the wrong way and God wants their hearts back
- c. They needed to learn to war by weeping 1<sup>st</sup>
  - i. Read Judges 3:1-2
  - ii. Winning the spiritual war 1<sup>st</sup> is the only way to win the rest

Read Chap 20:29-48

- 1. This is the Biblical answer to rid the impurity
- 2. Notice “as at other times” in vss 30, 31, 32, 39
  - a. They had the same strengthen, tactics, etc
  - b. The different was now they had the Lord
- 3. But now there are only 600 Benjamites left

**3<sup>rd</sup> lesson learned from moral decay is that you can't set your own rules w/o them causing continual conflict (Chap 21:1-25)**

Read Chap 21:1

- 1. Most vows in the Bible were foolish (Jephthah)
- 2. Read Matt 5:37 – There's freedom in relying on God's will & not my overcommitment

## Read Chap 21:2-14

1. So Israel covers the sin of a foolish vow w/ the sin of slaughtering innocents from Jabesh-Gilead

## Read Chap 21:15-24

1. Getting 200 more women from Shiloh
2. This allowed the men of Shiloh to keep their vow of not giving away their daughters
3. Remember, just b/c the Bible records these things doesn't mean God condones these things.

## Read Chap 21:25

1. No better verse to end the book with
2. Why would God end the book w/ this Benjamite sin & Israel's sin in "fixing" it?
  - a. Shows there are no "good guys"
  - b. When we leave God, we have no idea what good looks like
  - c. When we do our own thing, it's only evil continually – sin is within the human heart



## Conclusion

I want to be ruled and reigned over by the perfect King, Jesus! Without Him we continue to slide into moral decay:

1. **We side with evil & expect not to get bitten**
2. **We try removing cancer w/ infected scalpel**
3. **We set our own rules causing continual conflict**

BUT WE HAVE A CHOICE – During this horrible time of the Judges, there's a great example for us in how to live devoted to God the Father

Boaz & Ruth lived during this time and prospered in godliness!

They didn't get sucked into the culture and doing what THEY wanted

They looked to God and set the bar for generations to come!

You can overcome this culture, by blood of the Lamb