

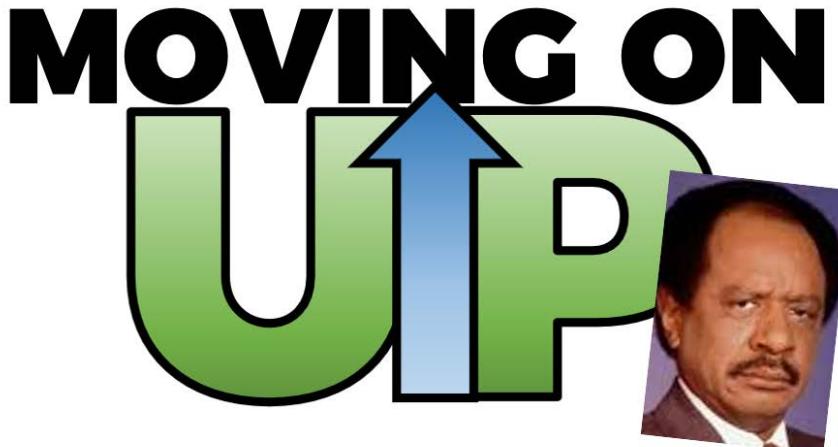
1

(Title Slide)



Many of the local Trinity Fellowship folks can state our 3-year vision of . . . READ SLIDE

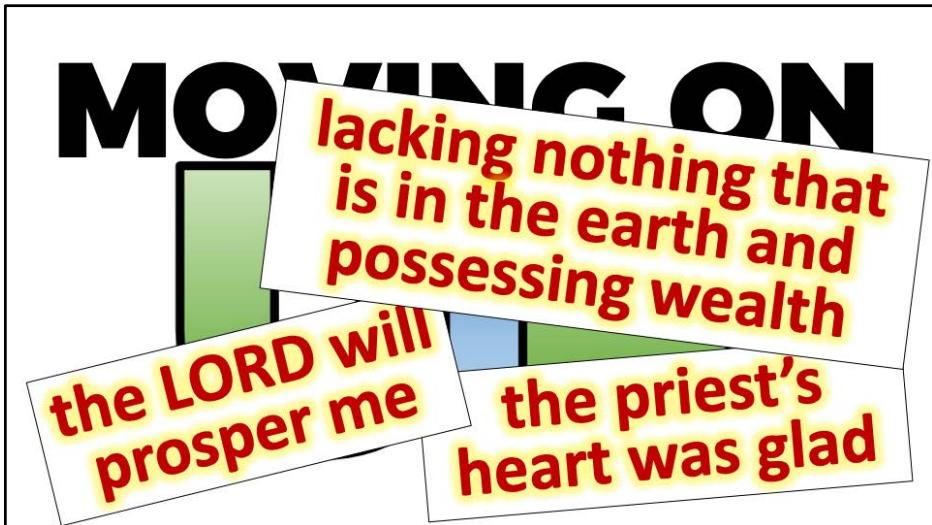
TR: But there is a great danger that we might buy into our culture's vision that also includes the word "UP"



3

Quoting the TV character of George Jefferson, they were movin' on up to the east side . . . and they were going to themselves a piece of the pie.

TR: A bigger piece of the pie was certainly in the thinking of the historical characters in our text today.



They wanted . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Being people of our times and culture, we may find it difficult to see such ambition as wrong or misguided . . . but the author of the OT book of Judges makes it clear . . .

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

ESV

5

READ SLIDE

- Without a central authority, like a king, to enforce the standards . . .
- . . . everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

TR: When you combine their ambition with their lack of deciding right and wrong based on how God's eyes look at things . . . you end up with a culture much like ours . . .

**“Get what you can
get away with!”**

READ SLIDE . . . kind-of-culture

TR: If you can't imagine getting to the place where this statement would be true of you, then you do not yet understand . . .

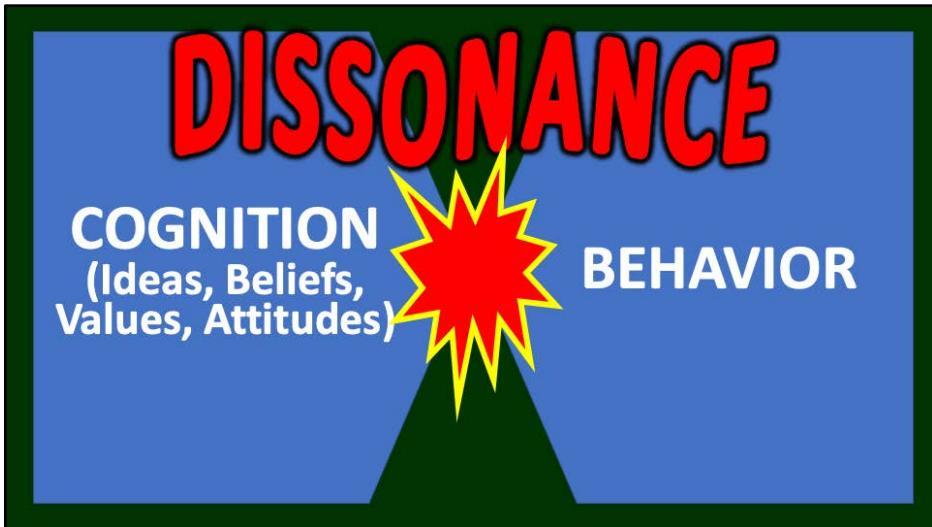


How covetousness will change our faith

READ SLIDE (CAN change . . . to WILL change)

- We may want to move on up but the very desire to do that can make our spiritual health move on down.
- This is what we see illustrated in Judges 17-18
- Part of the appendix – not in chronological order
- Intention is to show how bad things got during the time of the Judges and to make a case why the people needed a central king . . because they would not follow THE KING, YAHWEH, if there were no immediate consequences.

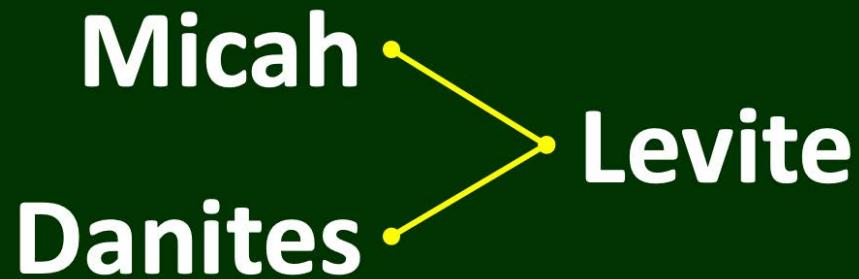
TR: We will learn today that there are only two ways to QUIET THE DISSONANCE



Dissonance happens in sounds and music when things aren't in consonance.

- In our lives, cognitive dissonance happens when we have a “cognition” (idea, belief, value, attitude) that conflicts with our behavior.
- FOR EXAMPLE: There is a dissonance when we say we believe that we should be content and yet our behavior reflects covetousness . . . always wanting MORE.
- This discord in our souls will be quieted . . . the question is how?

TR: These two chapters have three principle characters . . .



READ SLIDE

- The story begins with Micah.
- His story intersects with the tribe of the Danites through a young Levite.
- Let's go through the entire account and then come back and ask how we can AUDIT THE PAIN of these ancient folks who were disastrously changed by their covetousness.
- Let's not have to take the class ourselves and learn the hard way!

TR: As we go through the chapters, look for the things the TERRIBLE TRIO HAD IN COMMON.

There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- He steals 1,100 pieces of silver from his mother
- His mother utters a curse in his hearing
- He confesses to the theft

TR: The mom's response uses God-talk when she says . . .

Judges 17:2b-3

And his mother said, “**Blessed be my son by the LORD.**” ³And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, “I dedicate the silver to the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a carved image and a metal image. Now therefore I will restore it to you.”

ESV

11

READ SLIDE

- Again with the YAHWEH-talk but she wants him to make at least one graven image using the silver, perhaps two.
- Although she says all of the money is dedicated to the LORD, she only gives 200 pieces for the making project to the silversmith.

TR: Micah, whose name means, “Who is like Yahweh?”, goes even further in his so-called religious conversion or renewal . . .

And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained one of his sons, who became his priest. **⁶In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

ESV

12

READ SLIDE

- Right in their own eyes . . .
 - SHRINE – tabernacle at Shiloh
 - EPHOD – high priest's garments
 - HOUSEHOLD GODS – no graven images
 - ORDINATION – only of sons of Aaron
-
- Why this deviation from what God had revealed? No king . . . no one to enforce what God told us is right in His eyes . . . which is what is right!

TR: The story now intersects the young Levite. The second party of the TERRIBLE TRIO.

Judges 17:7-8

Now there was a young man of Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there. ⁸And the man departed from the town of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn where he could find a place. And as he journeyed, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah.

ESV

13

READ SLIDE

- Bethlehem was not one of the 48 Levite cities
- He was going from where he did not belong to where he did not belong!

- Micah offers the young man a chance to be his personal priest, paying his room and board and then some.

TR: The young homeless Levite was . . .

Judges 17:11-13

And the Levite was content to dwell with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons.
12 And Micah ordained the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. 13 Then Micah said, “Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, because I have a Levite as priest.”

ESV

14

READ SLIDE

- Even better than having one of his sons be his personal priest . .
- .
- . . . Micah now had a GENUINE Levite.
- We see into his heart when he does all this “right in his own eyes” religion and believes the LORD will prosper him for it.

TR: Chapter 18 then shows us how the lives of Micah and the Levite intersected with the third key party of the TERRIBLE TRIO. Actually, it is not a single person but the majority of one of the tribes of Israel.

Judges 18:1

In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the people of Dan was seeking for itself an inheritance to dwell in, for until then no inheritance among the tribes of Israel had fallen to them.

ESV

15

READ SLIDE

- Repeated is the editor's clue as to his point . . . no king . . . no "center" that holds things together.
- Like the Levite, the people of Dan were coming from where they shouldn't be and going to where they shouldn't go.

TR: Remember back to our map . . .



HILL COUNTRY OF EPHRAIM

DAN'S GOD-GIVEN INHERITANCE

16

Micah and the Levite intersect somewhere in the hill country of Ephraim, one of the 12 tribes.

-- Now we see the tribe of Dan, who should have conquered their God-given inheritance in the general area at the bottom of the Valley of Sorek.

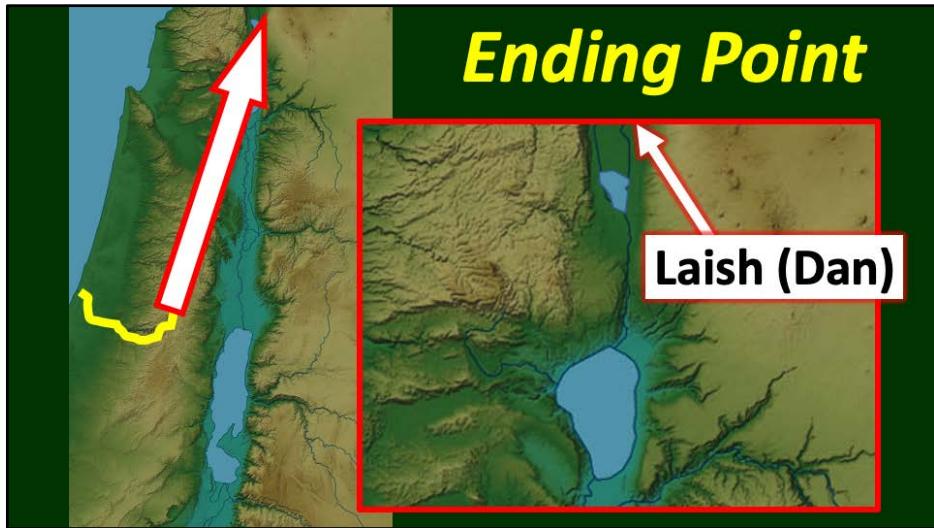
TR: But the Danites weren't there. Judges 1:34 told us that the people of Dan were pushed back from the coastal plain into the hill country, into some of Ephraim's territory.



17

So the geography of our account starts near to where we read about Samson and the “valley girls”

TR: Instead of rallying the troops and taking the land given to them by God, they decided that THERE MUST BE AN EASIER WAY to have an easier life.



18

The account tells us of 5 spies who go up and then a good chunk of what remained of the tribe of Dan going up to the far north, beyond the Sea of Galilee and even the much smaller Lake Huleh.
-- This is near where the NT city of Caesarea Philippi would be some 1,100 years later.

TR: But let's not miss how this migration of the Danites happened. The five spies . . .

Judges 18:3

**When they were by the house of Micah,
they recognized the voice of the young
Levite. And they turned aside and said
to him, “Who brought you here? What
are you doing in this place? What is
your business here?”**

ESV

19

READ SLIDE

- Perhaps they knew him or recognized his accent
- Their barrage of questions makes it clear that they didn't expect to find him here.

- The young Levite explains how he is a **HIRELING** priest to Micah.

TR: Instead of being appalled, the spies show their spiritual immaturity by . . .

Judges 18:5-6

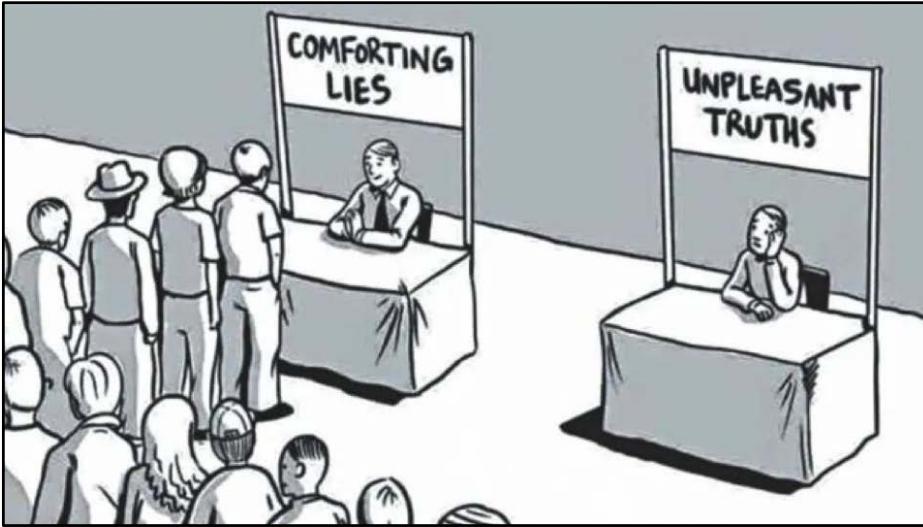
And they said to him, “**Inquire of God, please, that we may know whether the journey on which we are setting out will succeed.**” **6And the priest said to them, “Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the LORD.”**

ESV

20

READ SLIDE

TR: Does the young man really seek God or does he tell them what they want to hear? Either way, he uses God-talk, Yahweh-talk to couch his blessing in spiritual terms.



21

I've found that many people believe "it is a good sermon," if I say what they agree with.

-- The line is always longer at the "comforting lies" booth, rather than the "unpleasant truths" booth.

-- But is a good sermon one we agree with OR one that God agrees with?

-- It is not that both can't be true, but when only one of those two options is true . . . which should it be?

TR: The account goes on . . .

Judges 18:7

Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were there, how they lived in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting, lacking nothing that is in the earth and possessing wealth, and how they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone.

ESV

22

READ SLIDE (refer back to the map – far to the north)

- Like Micah, the Danite spies wanted prosperity and they believed they found it.
- These were unsuspecting and isolated folks living at a great trading point and therefore great wealth.

TR: The five spies return home. It is hard not to think of the 12 spies coming back to report to Moses after God saved Israel out of Egypt.

Judges 18:10

As soon as you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people. The land is spacious, for God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything that is in the earth."

ESV

23

The spies now use God-talk to challenge the Danites, who did not and would not conquer the land assigned to them by God . . .
-- . . . to "conquer the land"

-- They convince the Danites, though some would remain in the Valley of Sorek, since this likely happened before the time of Samson.

TR: On their migration north, they again stop at Micah's place.

Judges 18:14

Then the five men who had gone to scout out the country of Laish said to their brothers, “Do you know that in these houses there are an ephod, household gods, a carved image, and a metal image? Now therefore consider what you will do.”

ESV

24

READ SLIDE

- They are not 5 men but 600 armed men, plus women and children.
- They want God's protection and blessing . . . and they believe these “right in their own eyes” religious trappings will secure that for them.

TR: So they . . .

Judges 18:18

And when these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

ESV

25

READ SLIDE

-- Note that the list has been repeated 3 times . . . editor is saying, "Don't miss this. This is how they "did religion."

TR: The Danite's response to the young hireling priest tells us much about how they viewed God and the "pastoral" ministry.

Judges 18:19

And they said to him, “**Keep quiet; put your hand on your mouth** and come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?”

ESV

26

READ SLIDE

TR: How can it not be the will of God to MOVE ON UP to a place of greater prestige and influence?



27

At least that's how people think who judge what is right by what they think/feel/reason is right.

-- Money is not the only thing that is easy to covet, is it?

TR: This young priest, who had been described as content in 17:11, now . . .

And the priest's heart was glad. He took the ephod and the household gods and the carved image and went along with the people.

ESV

28

. . . finds his heart glad. READ SLIDE

-- The Danites were in the process of stealing the religious items, but it was the hireling priest who is described as actually taking them.

-- Don't miss this - The list is repeated a fourth time. This is how they thought you "did church."

TR: Micah finds out what has happened. He doesn't want to lose his religious connection to his desired prosperity, so he chases the Danites . . .

Judges 18:23-24

**And they shouted to the people of Dan,
who turned around and said to Micah,
“What is the matter with you, that you
come with such a company?”²⁴ And he
said, “You take my gods that I made and
the priest, and go away, and what have I
left? How then do you ask me, ‘What is
the matter with you?’”**

ESV

29

[they] = Micah and the men of the houses near his . . . READ SLIDE

-- How sad that Micah can state that these graven images and household idols were his “gods.”

-- How sad that he would despair that he has “nothing left.”

-- But in a time when people do what is right in their own eyes and there is no king to enforce what is truly right . . .

-- . . . in such a world, “might makes right” and Micah turns back home empty-handed.

TR: The Danites migrate north . . .

Then they rebuilt the city and lived in it.
29 And they named the city Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor, who was born to Israel; but the name of the city was Laish at the first.

ESV

30

. . . they wipe out the entire population, not under the judgment of God but because it was right in their own eyes.

-- READ SLIDE

-- Wanting to connect all this grabbing of an easy, wealthy inheritance with their heritage . . .

-- . . . they rename the rebuilt city.

TR: As the Apostle Paul would later say, “Not all Israel is Israel.” Heritage is not enough. When there is no faith, what we called “churched people” will do like the people of Dan . . .

And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. ³¹So they set up Micah's carved image that he made, as long as the house of God was at Shiloh.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Why does the editor include the statement about Jonathan?
- It is likely to show that the young Levite had a great family heritage . .
- .
- . . . even though that doesn't mean he should be a priest.
- Dan becomes a center of twisted faith until the [captivity] – either 721 or more likely when the Philistines took over and captured the Ark.
- Interestingly, Dan becomes one of the two sites where Jeroboam, Son of Nebat, sets up a rival temple so the people from the northern Israel don't have to go back to the God-ordained Temple in Jerusalem.

TR: In the NT days, at the headways of the Jordan, this place of rugged cliffs near Mount Hermon, becomes famous for its temples to many other gods.



32

In this artist's rendering, you can begin to imagine the Sanctuary of Pan, with its Temples of Augustus, Zeus, Nemesis, the Sacred and Dancing Goats.

-- The Danites wanted to connect to their heritage . . . but the very religious heritage they left was so horribly wrong in God's eyes.

TR: Let's take a moment to think about what the TERRIBLE TRIO HAD IN COMMON.

Micah, Levite, Danites

They all used God-talk.

33

We're talking about Micah, the Levite probably called Jonathan, and the tribe of Dan

-- READ SLIDE

-- Micah and his mom: “Blessed be my son by the LORD”, “I dedicate the silver to the LORD,” “Now I know that the LORD will prosper me,”

-- Danites and Levite: “Inquire of God, please,” “Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the LORD,” “The land is spacious, for God has given it into your hands,”

TR: All three are seen to be . . .

Micah, Levite, Danites

They all used God-talk.
They were all discontent.

34

... READ SLIDE

- They all covet MORE.
- Micah thought a lucky, genuine Levite would make the LORD give him prosperity.
- Cf. people rubbing my head “for blessing” --- hopefully they were kidding around!
- The Levite was not content with staying in his place . . . looking for a place . . . and then taking a ministry “calling” not from God, only to abandon it when a better offer with MORE prestige and influence came along.
- The Danites were not content with God’s inheritance. They didn’t want to fight the hardened Amorites or later the Philistines . . . they wanted to find something easier . . . and something with MORE . . . “a place where there is no lack of anything . . . possessing wealth” (18:7,10)

TR: All three of these “right in the own eyes” folks allowed their discontent to push them . . .

Micah, Levite, Danites

They all used God-talk.

They were all discontent.

They all stole.

35

. . . to steal.

-- Micah stole from his mother

-- The Danites, along with the Levite, stole from Micah and from the people of Laish.

TR: But the worst of all the things the TERRIBLE TRIO had in common was that . . .

Micah, Levite, Danites

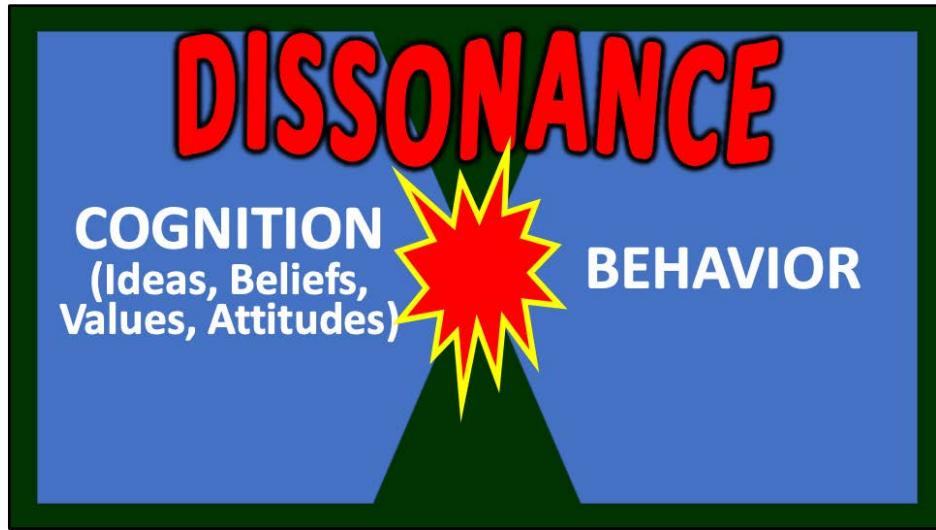
They all used God-talk.
They were all discontent.
They all stole.
They all overrode the Word.

36

. . . READ SLIDE

- These folks all practiced R.I.O.E. (right in own eyes religion)
- They may have used God-talk, and even excused the images as being “bulls on which God would ride” – cf. golden calves of Aaron and of Jeroboam, but . . .
- . . . God made clear it was wrong to make graven images, wrong to take the LORD’s name in vain by using God-talk flippantly, wrong to dishonor your mother, wrong to commit murder to get a better inheritance, wrong to steal . . .
- . . . and it is wrong to violate the tenth commandment, DO NOT COVET . . . perhaps at the root of all the other RIOE practices.

TR: This account is included in the appendix to Judges to illustrate the downward trajectory of a people who were religious, but not a people of true faith and faithfulness to the LORD.



37

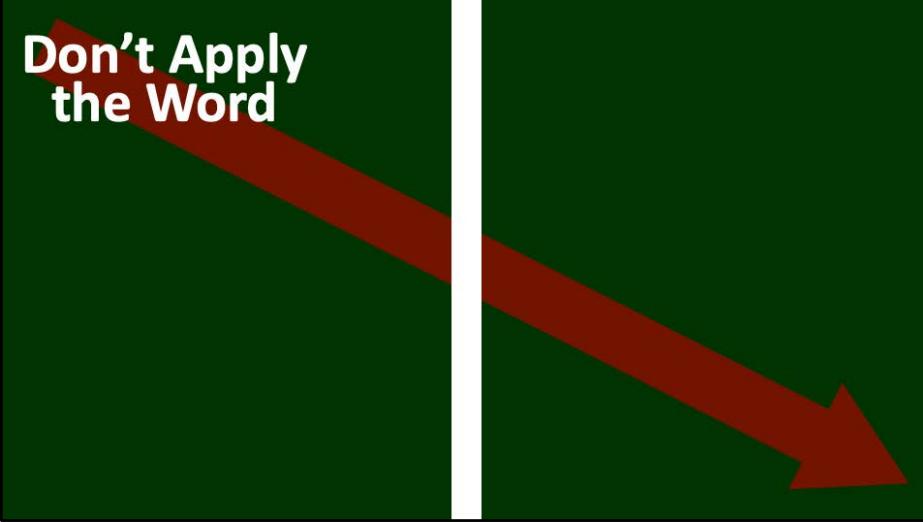
Micah, the Levite, and the Danites all quieted their dissonance.

-- At least I'm assuming they would have had dissonance . . .
perhaps they had shipwrecked their faith and seared their
consciences . . .

-- . . . but then, why use the God-talk?

-- Even though they didn't do God-walk!

TR: Their downward trajectory followed a path something like this.



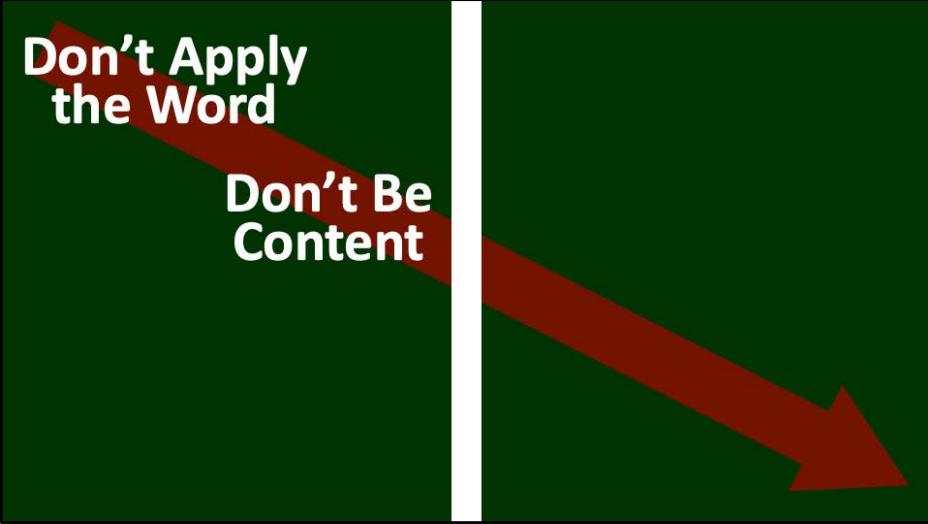
**Don't Apply
the Word**

38

They decided that the revealed Word of God did not really apply to their situations.

- There was probably dissonance between what they felt like doing,
- . . . that is, what made sense to them . . .
- . . . AND the revealed Word of God, specifically through Moses.

TR: Having turned their eyes inward rather than Godward, they then found themselves becoming . . .

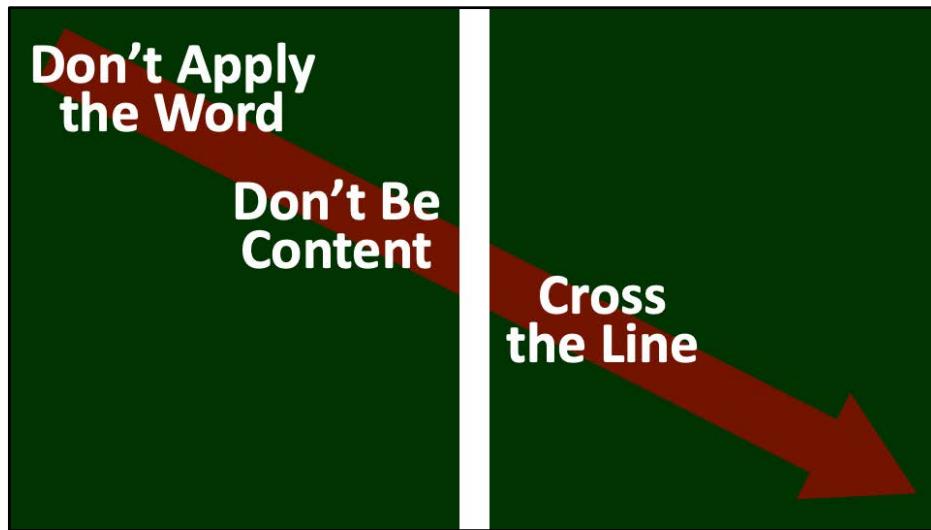


39

. . . more discontent.

-- They coveted prosperity, a place of greater prestige and influence, an inheritance lacking nothing.

TR: Unrestrained by the faithful application of God's Word, this discontent pushed them to . . .



40

. . . cross the line.

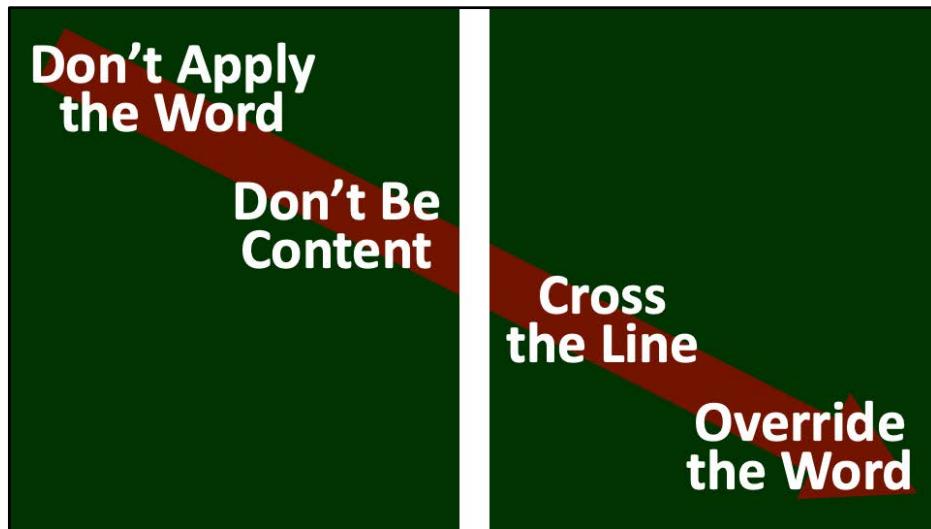
-- Stealing becomes an option.

-- They (and we) can find ourselves doing that which we said we would never do . . . what we never even imagined ourselves being tempted to do.

-- How did they quiet the dissonance?

-- They told a young Levite and even their consciences to “put a hand on your mouth”

TR: It is not far behind when we then believe we are in the right to . . .



41

. . . override the Word.

- In their world: One Tabernacle, Inherited Priesthood, Inheritance assigned by God, and then the 10 commandments!
- In our culture: It is one thing to not apply God's Word when it makes clear that God's good gift of sex is only right between a man and woman who are husband and wife . . . that's bad . . .
- . . . but we easily sink to greater depths when we say the Bible endorses and celebrates the sexual encounters our culture covets.
- We can say we don't do it with the sexual stuff . . . but we do it with gossip, division, unforgiveness . . .

TR: In our lives, this is where the dissonance happens . . .

I am a Christ-follower who believes the Bible is the final authority for matters of faith and practice.

I covet prosperity and happiness and will violate the Bible to get what I can get away with.

READ SLIDE

TR: How can someone who professes to be a Christ-follower practice a lifestyle that says . . .

**“Get what you can
get away with!”**

43

READ SLIDE

- EX: Face masks today . . . the rule is “mandatory in enclosed public spaces.” Menards has a king who enforces the rule and all wear. Meijers and Walmart have the signs posted clearly . . . but without a king, everyone does what is right in their own eyes and most don’t wear.
- We have clear, biblical teaching to submit to the governing authorities . . . not just when it makes sense to us. If they are telling us to violate the clear commands of Scripture, then we must submit to the higher authority, of course. But are our attitudes really that much different than the time of the Judges? **READ SLIDE**
- I understand why the world would be like this, but we who are believers have the Holy Spirit, we have been given a heart of flesh through the redeeming work of Jesus . . . and still practice R.I.O.E. lifestyles.

TR: Are you experiencing dissonance? Let me tell you how Micah, Jonathan the Levite, and the Danites, the terrible trio, would tell us to quiet it . . .

**Use cheap God-talk,
but don't live "under the Word."**

Start by . . . READ SLIDE

- We live in a day when people love TOPICAL MESSAGES that relate to where I'm really at. But there is a danger because we so easily slip into not applying or not even discussing what we don't want to.
- EX: Affirmation of textual preacher who was great at topical sermons . . . because he was Word-saturated . . . under the Word.
- When we use God-talk but are not IN the Word . . . we will eventually not be UNDER the Word . . . which means our personal cognitions will be OVER the Word.

TR: It happened in the time of the Judges. It happened half of a millennia later, during the exile . . .

Ezekiel 13:2-3

“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, who are prophesying, and say to those who prophesy from their own hearts: ‘Hear the word of the LORD!’ Thus says the LORD God, Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!”

ESV

45

READ SLIDE

TR: If we want to follow the horrid example of the terrible trio, we must . . .

**Allow discontentment
to take root in our lives.**

READ SLIDE

- Our times promote covetousness, don't they?
- Are you coveting another person's spouse? Job? Wealth? Influence? Gifts?
- If so, perhaps you are auditioning to make the TERRIBLE TRIO INTO A QUARTET.

TR: If we quiet the dissonance by embracing our discontent while loosening our grip on the revealed Word, it probably won't be long before we . . .

**Cross the line
in our pursuit of prosperity.**

READ SLIDE

- Whether it is stealing or some other clear crossing of the line, once we start to fudge on living “under the Word,” it won’t be too long before we blatantly violate the Word.
- When there is “a king” that creates consequences for crossing the line, we may be held back for a time. But without “a king” the descent goes on unabated.
- CF as a parent . . . to have your child do right even when you are not around to enforce it.

TR: For those who reach this point and have at least the memory of their profession to be a Christ-follower . . . the dissonance is deafening. We will either repent and turn back, OR we will . . .

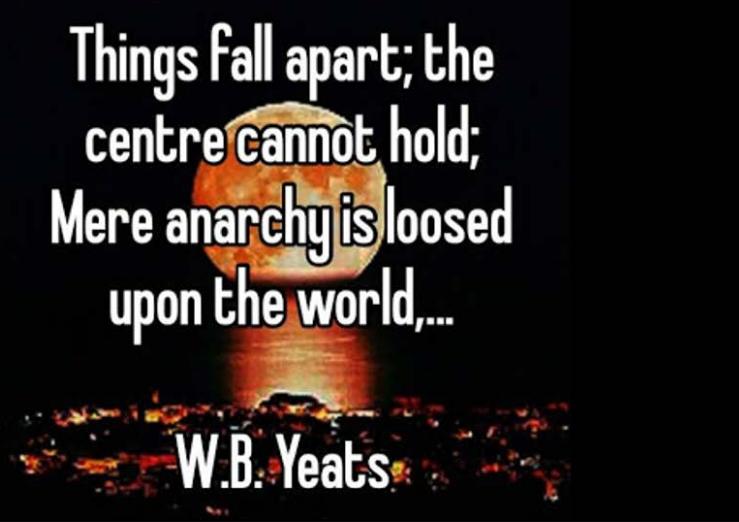
**Quiet the dissonance
by overriding the Word.**

READ SLIDE

-- We will go from not applying it to overriding it. It is not the final authority anymore.

TR: As one author famously put it . . .

Things fall apart; the
centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed
upon the world,...



W.B. Yeats

49

READ SLIDE

- The center is the Word of God . . . what the LORD has chosen to reveal to us.
- FAITH is trusting in what He has said, more than what we feel or think is right in our own eyes.
- In Judges 17-18, the key issue was the worship of God.
- It is not enough to use God-talk. It is not enough to be sincere.
- We must approach the Holy God in the way, the only way, He has provided . . . through Jesus.
- Contra: “They don’t go to church, but they are ‘good people.’”

TR: We can try to make people live under the Word . . . by building with it in mind.



**LOW
DOOR**



**UNEVEN
STAIRS**

50

On our trip to Israel, Kathy and I saw the doorway to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem with a LOW DOOR to promote humility. It is called, the “Door of Humility”

-- At the ruins of a synagogue north of the Sea of Galilee, we saw intentionally UNEVEN STAIRS, to promote reverence and thoughtfulness when approaching God.

-- When a variance of 3/8" is enough to cause a tripping hazard, we wonder why would someone do this . . . to slow us down and make us intentional.

TR: While these architectural features are good reminders, the key to quieting the dissonance is not architecture or even having a “law and order king.” The key is to quiet the dissonance in

God's way is not to follow the terrible trio but to follow Jesus

50

...

HUMILITY

Trusting what God says is right and doing it!

51

and practice READ SLIDE

- To live under the Word
- When the Word and our RIOE thoughts collide . . . the Word wins.
- When the Word crashes into our culture's covetousness . . . the Word wins.
- When the Word front-ends the temptation to cross the line to get what we think is good . . . the Word wins.

Where in your life, right now, do you need to exercise humility . . . by trusting what God says is right is right . . . and then doing it?

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS (1 of 3)

1. How do you see our culture promoting a “moving on up” mentality? What are influences that seem to elevate your personal level of covetousness?
2. Micah wanted prosperity. The Danites wanted wealth and to lack nothing. The Levite wanted a place of greater influence and prestige. Which of these desires has been the greatest temptation for you? Is there something else that surpasses these?

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DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS (2 of 3)

- 3. When there is no “king,” that is, someone to enforce the rules of what is right, how have you tended to respond? Do you still do what’s right in God’s eyes? Do you fudge a little bit by just not applying the rule? Do you flagrantly cross the line and “get what you can get away with?”**

- 4. How do our actions, when there are no immediate consequences to our choices, betray the state of our hearts?**

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS (3 of 3)

5. While it seems easier to spot hypocrisy in others, ask the Spirit to be a mirror and show you where you are quieting the dissonance by not living under His Word, or even overriding it. Confess this to one another and ask for prayer support to live in consonance with the statement, “I am a Christ-follower who believes the Bible is the final authority for matters of faith and practice.”

Judges 17-18
"Quelling the Dissonance"

THE CULTURE OF THE AGEDY: TIME AND OUR TIMES

- "Moving on up"
- "Get what you can get away with!"
- "It's all about me"
- "Quiet the Dissonance"

THE TERRIBLE TRIO:
Mikail - Lucifer - Daniels

WHAT THE TERRIBLE TRIO HAD IN COMMON:

- They all used G. _____
- They all did _____.
- They all did _____.
- They all wanted the _____.

THE TRIO'S DOWNWARD TRAJECTORY:

Don't Apply the Law
Don't Be
The Line
The Word

THE CAUSE OF OUR DISSONANCE:

I am a Christian who follows Christ and the Bible is the final authority for matters of faith and practice.

I follow prosperity and success and the world will validate the title to get what I want.

Don't apply the law. Don't be the line. The word.

WE CAN'T "QUIET THE DISSONANCE" BY:

- Following the commandments of the trio.
- "Moving on up". — See left but don't live "under the wheel".
- Admit that we have more room in our lives.
- Get rid of the line in our practices.
- Quiet the dissonance by overrunning the Word.

Following the "downward" elements of focus:

- If _____ ... Thinking what God says is right and doing it.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do we see our culture promoting a "moving on up" mentality? What are influences that seem to elevate our personal level of consciousness?
2. Mikail wanted prosperity. The Lucifer wanted wealth and to lack nothing. The Lucifer wanted a place of complete dominance and control. What are those things he wants to dominate? In your life, is there something else that surpasses these?
3. When there is no "line" — that is, someone to enforce the rules of the "line" — what do we do? Do you "go along"? Do you still do what's right in God's eyes? Do you hedge a little bit but not respecting the rule? Do you do what's right but not respecting the rule? Can you get away with it? How do our actions, when there are no immediate consequences to our choices, serve the cause of my heart?
4. While it seems easier to spot hypocrisy in others, isn't the Spirit to be a mirror and show you where you are being hypocritical? Is it easier to see the "line" in the Word, or even overruling it? Confess this to me in confidence. I am here to help you. I am here to help. If follower who believes the title is the final authority for matters of faith and practice.

[continues next column ➔](#)

LINK TO SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS