



The Announcement PT. II | Judges | Mark Allen | 12.7.25

Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer: Ask someone to open in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal areas where God wants to work in each person's life.

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you thought you were doing the right thing, but later realized you were wrong. What helped you see things differently?

Key Scriptures

Judges 21:25 - "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

Additional References: Judges 1:27-33; 2:1-12; 6:11-16

Sermon Summary

The book of Judges reveals a pattern where God's people had no physical king and forgot that God wanted to be their King. They did "what was right in their own eyes" instead of what was right in God's eyes. The sermon challenges us to examine areas of our lives where we've allowed bondage to remain—things God has called us to "drive out" but we've tolerated instead. Just as the Israelites failed to completely remove the inhabitants of the land, we often fail to completely remove sin and bondage from our lives, thinking "it's not that big a deal."

Discussion Questions:

Part 1: Doing Right in Our Own Eyes

Read Judges 21:25 together.

1. What's the difference between doing what's right "in our own eyes" versus doing what's right "in God's eyes"? Can you think of examples from your own life?
2. Pastor Mark pointed out that the Israelites thought they were doing right—they weren't intentionally doing wrong. How can Christians today fall into the same trap of thinking we're doing right when we're actually going against God's word?
3. **Read Judges 1:27-33.** The repeated phrase is "they did not drive them out completely." What are some areas in your life where you've made progress spiritually but haven't "completely driven out" certain sins or habits?

Part 2: The Effect of God's Word

Read Joshua 3:14-17 & Colossians 2:11-12

4. **Read Judges 2:1-7.** When the angel of the Lord spoke God's word to the people, they wept and made sacrifices. When was the last time God's Word convicted you to tears or to significant life change?
5. **Read Judges 2:10-12.** A generation arose "who did not know the Lord." The sermon suggests this happened because parents and grandparents stopped talking about God with their children.

For parents: How intentional are you about training your children in God's ways? What changes might you need to make?

For everyone: How can we as a church family help raise up the next generation to know and love God?

6. Pastor Mark mentioned that we often say "God is first" but our actions show otherwise (sports, activities, busyness). What does your schedule say about your priorities? What would need to change for God to truly be first?

Part 3: The Absence of God's Word

7. **Read 1 Samuel 3:1** - "The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were infrequent." The sermon suggests this wasn't because God stopped speaking, but because people stopped listening. Do you agree? Why or why not?

8. Have you ever experienced a "famine" of God's word in your life—a time when you weren't hearing from Him? What led to that, and how did you find your way back?

Part 4: The Authority of God's Word

9. **Read Judges 6:11-16** – Gideon's story. God saw Gideon as a "valiant warrior" even while he was hiding in fear. What does this teach us about how God sees us versus how we see ourselves?
10. Gideon gave every excuse why he couldn't do what God asked ("I am the least...I am the youngest"). What excuses do we give God for not obeying Him? What would change if we truly believed "the Lord is with you"?
11. God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300 before giving them victory. Why do you think God works this way? How does this apply to areas where we feel inadequate or under-resourced?

Key Takeaways

1. **We often do what's right in our own eyes instead of seeking God's perspective.** We need to constantly evaluate our decisions against God's Word, not our feelings or culture.
 2. **Tolerating sin is dangerous.** Just as Israel didn't completely drive out their enemies, we often tolerate "small" sins or bondages, thinking they're "not that big a deal." But they become thorns in our side.
 3. **God's Word should convict us and change us.** When we hear God's truth, it should move us to tears, repentance, and transformation—not leave us unchanged.
 4. **We must pass our faith to the next generation intentionally.** If we don't actively teach and model faith for our children, they will not know the Lord.
 5. **God sees more in us than we see in ourselves.** Like Gideon, we may feel inadequate, but God can use our weakness to display His strength.
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Practical Applications

This Week:

- **Personal Inventory:** Set aside 30 minutes for honest self-examination. Ask God: "What areas of my life am I doing what's right in my own eyes instead of Yours? What bondage have I been tolerating?" Write down what He reveals.
- **Daily Word Intake:** Commit to reading God's Word every day this week. Don't just read—ask God to speak to you through it and convict you where needed.
- **Family Faith Talk:** (For parents) Have at least one intentional conversation with your children this week about what God is doing in your life. Share a testimony or read a Bible story together.
- **Obedience Challenge:** Identify one thing God has been asking you to do (or stop doing) that you've been putting off. Take one concrete step of obedience this week.

Ongoing:

- **Accountability:** Find someone in the group to check in with weekly about areas of bondage or disobedience you're working to "drive out completely."
- **Priority Audit:** Look at your calendar for the next month. Does it reflect that God is truly first? Make necessary adjustments to activities, commitments, or time allocation.
- **Memorize:** Commit Judges 21:25 to memory as a reminder to check your motivations and decisions.

Closing Discussion

Final Question: If you were completely honest, is Jesus the King of your life, or are you your own king? What's one specific area you need to surrender to His kingship this week?

Prayer Time:

- Break into groups of 2-3 for prayer
 - Pray specifically for:
 - Conviction of the Holy Spirit in areas of compromise
 - Courage to completely "drive out" bondage in our lives
 - Strength to do what's right in God's eyes, not our own
 - The next generation to know and love the Lord
 - Obedience to take the next step God is asking of each person
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For Next Week

- Read the entire book of Judges (or at least chapters 1-7) to get the full context
 - Come prepared to share one area where you took a step of obedience this week
 - Bring someone new to small group!
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Leader Notes

- Be prepared to share vulnerably from your own life about areas where you've done what was right in your own eyes
- Have tissues available—the Holy Spirit may bring conviction
- If parents are present, affirm them and encourage them rather than shame them
- Be sensitive to those who may be struggling with children who have walked away from faith
- Consider having the altar ministry team available after small group for anyone who needs additional prayer