

**Without A King-11**  
**“When everyone does what they think is right”**  
**Judges 19-21 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are worshipping with us online!

I also want to invite you back next week as we start a brand new series called “For such a time as this”...

I’m so excited about this series because we’re handing the mic over to our young communicators...and let me tell you these young and anointed leaders have a powerful message for all of us!

Today we’re finishing up our series in the Book of Judges...

If you're new with us, the Book of Judges covers the 400 year history of the nation of Israel between the time of Joshua and King Saul...

Now you may be thinking...well that sounds pretty boring...Ah but you would be wrong because even though Judges was written around 1050 BC...It is still very relevant to us today...

Under Moses & Joshua Israel had become one nation under God...They were a Theocracy...meaning that God was their King...

God wanted His people to shine in the darkness...They were to live lives that were set apart from the rest of the pagan world...

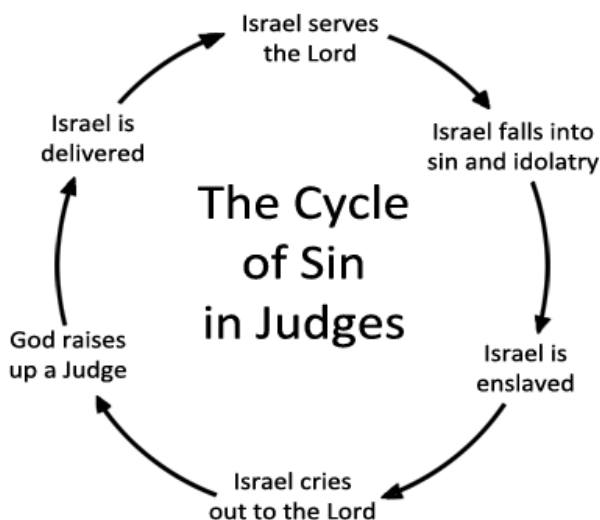
They were supposed to live out their faith in such a way that the wicked nations around them would want God as their King too!

The Book of Judges shows us how quickly God's people turned away from the Lord...

Instead of being the light that would attract lost people to God...they were attracted to the darkness...And they began to fall away from God...

Series Verse

***25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit-Jdg 21:25 (NIV)***



After each cycle they fell deeper and deeper into darkness...they hit a new level of wickedness and perversion...

They started worshiping pagan gods alongside the One True God and as a result they became spiritually confused...

They were no longer wholeheartedly obeying God's Word...but they were picking and choosing what they wanted to believe and apply to their lives...

In the last five chapters of the book of Judges the author zooms in and gives us some examples of what it looks like when a nation falls away from God and God's Word...

Last week we met a guy named Micha who created his own religious system...he was practicing what we call "buffet-styel christianity"

I'll follow God's Word here but not here...  
I like what God says here...but I need to  
redefine this because it doesn't agree with how  
I feel...with my preferences

As a result...we saw what happens when a nation falls away from God...and His Word...When everyone is doing their own thing...when everyone is doing what's right in their own eyes...The nation falls spiritually

Now these last three chapters are going to zoom in and show us what it looks like when a nation spiritually rots...

If we're not wholeheartedly following after God...and living according to His Word...If we fall away spiritually...we will eventually fall away morally...

19th Century philosopher Fredrick Neitzsche said *"If God is dead, then everything is permitted."* He was no theologian but he was right...If there is no God then there are no moral restraints...Everyone can do what they think is right...

And that's a picture of our culture today...As we approach these last chapters of the Book of Judges we see our own culture...

We are a nation that has been in spiritual decline for a long time...We have rejected God and His Word...We have decided it's easier to redefine God's Word than it is to surrender to it...

So we pick and choose...We add and take away from it...we become the king of our own hearts...we become the Captain Jack Sparrow of our own Black Pearl...

It's not that we stopped believing in right and wrong...we just redefined what's right and what's wrong...

In other words...What God says is wrong now becomes right and what God says is right now becomes wrong...

And in our culture in 2025 it usually comes down to this...

If you side with God and His Word and disagree with those who are rejecting or redefining God and His Word you are labeled as a person who is being intolerant...

Depending upon what “it” is, if you disagree you will be viewed as being hateful, bigoted, prejudiced, racist, homophobic, transphobic, misogynistic etc...

It's interesting that our culture screams tolerance...and wants a society where everyone can have their own opinion...unless it's God's opinion...

As a result we are a nation in moral decline...  
So as we finish these chapters a warning to Parents...

These are seriously dark and graphic chapters and so if you have a small child here today...

Kidsong would be an excellent alternative...they have age appropriate lessons going on right now!

Just like a few weeks ago our text is going to address controversial topics that may hit close to home for you...

Let me say that unlike the lies that our culture believes...as a Christian, I can disagree with your opinion or your lifestyle and still love you...

For instance...

Let's say that you're here today or you're watching online and you are living with your boyfriend or girlfriend and you're not married, but you're doing everything a married couple does...



That is something that the Bible calls fornication...You're having sex outside of marriage...As a follower of Jesus I can't affirm that lifestyle...I would tell you in love that if you want to live together...you should do the right thing and get married...

That's the most loving thing for me to do...Is tell you the truth...It doesn't mean I hate you...it means I love you, and I want God's best for you...and at the end of the day if you consider yourself to be a Christian, you need to decide who the King is in your life...Jesus or you!

So with the help of the Holy Spirit, I will do my best to speak the truth in love today...and know that everyone is welcome in this House...but that doesn't mean that we can affirm everything you are doing...

And if you find yourself wrestling with something today...my prayer is that today will be the day you surrender your heart to the King!

What does life look like when a nation falls spiritually and morally? Buckle up...here we go!

***19 In those days Israel had no king. Now a Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. 2 But she was unfaithful to him. She left him and went back to her parents' home in Bethlehem, Judah. After she had been there four months, 3 her husband went to her to persuade her to return. He had with him his servant and two donkeys. She took him into her parents' home, and when her father saw him, he gladly welcomed him. 4 His father-in-law, the woman's father, prevailed on him to stay; so he remained with him three days, eating and drinking, and sleeping there***

**5 On the fourth day they got up early and he prepared to leave, but the woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh yourself with something to eat; then you can go." 6 So the two of them sat down to eat and drink together. Afterward the woman's father said, "Please stay tonight and enjoy yourself." 7 And when the man got up to go, his father-in-law persuaded him, so he stayed there that night. 8 On the morning of the fifth day, when he rose to go, the woman's father said, "Refresh yourself. Wait till afternoon!" So the two of them ate together. 9 Then when the man, with his concubine and his servant, got up to leave, his father-in-law, the woman's father, said, "Now look, it's almost evening. Spend the night here; the day is nearly over. Stay and enjoy yourself. Early tomorrow morning you can get up and be on your way home."**

***10 But, unwilling to stay another night, the man left and went toward Jebus (that is, Jerusalem), with his two saddled donkeys and his concubine. -Judges 19:1-10 (NIV)***

When Jesus isn't King...

We value **COMFORT** over **CONVICTION**

Let's break this down...

The story opens with a Levite...it's not the same Levite from chapters 17 & 18...

What do we know about the Levites? They are supposed to be men of God...They are supposed to be set-aprt...they're supposed to be holy...They're supposed to be teachers of God's law...They're supposed to be living by example...They're supposed to be helping people get right with God...

And just like last week...we find a guy who calls himself a man of God...he's talking the talk...but he's not walking the walk...

How is he not walking the walk?

Well, we know according to **Numbers 35 & Joshua 21** he's supposed to be living in the city that God has appointed to him...Just he's not doing that...He's like I'm going to do what I want to do...

Second he takes a concubine...

A concubine was a lawful wife that was treated more as a servant...in other words the husband had to make sure she had food and shelter...that she was physically cared for...

But they were kind of treated like second-class citizens...In other words, it wasn't a desired lifestyle...what woman wants to be number two or three?

So a man would take a concubine, let's say if his wife couldn't have any children...he would have children with the concubine...

We saw this in the life of Jacob...remember he thought he was marrying Rachel...but he gets tricked by her father and ends up marrying Leah first so he ends up with two wives...

This is the original version of “Sister Wives”  
You can read the whole story in **Genesis 29 & 30...**

Basically Leah and Rachel start having a competition as to how many children they can have...Leah is having babies but Rachel isn't...so Rachel gives Jacob her servant Bilhah as a concubine and she has children through Bilhah...Leah ends up doing the same thing...giving Jacob her servant Zilpah as a concubine to have children through her...

Now because we see people like Abraham, Jacob, David, Solomon having concubines...some people think it's okay to have more than one wife...

Let me say this...

Just because it's in the Bible doesn't mean that God approves of us doing it...

This is one of those things...Concubines are part of the narrative...part of what happened but that doesn't mean it was part of God's plan for marriage...

By the way, God created the idea of marriage... It all started with Adam & Eve...He said in Genesis two

***24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one-Ge 2:24 (NLT)***

Marriage is meant to be a sacred monogamous relationship between one man and one woman for life...

Jesus reaffirms this in the New Testament...

**4 “Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ 5 And he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ 6 Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”-Mt 19:4–6 (NLT)**

The only time Jesus addresses the topic of marriage He points back to the beginning...that’s God’s plan for marriage!

Any other variation of that is not of God...

With all due respect...

You may be legally married in the eyes of the state...But your marriage is not one man and one woman...Which means you’re not married in the eyes of God...



You may be married in your own eyes...You say things like...Hey we've been together forever...I love her, she loves me...She calls me hubby, I call her wifey...we even have kids...I don't need a ring on my finger to say I love you!

Maybe you are married but you're having an affair or you and your spouse have an open marriage...You're like...This is America...I can do what I want...and everyone is swinging from the chandeliers...

The bottom line is...All of these things may be okay with the culture, the state, and even you...but they're not okay with God!

If you call yourself a Christian and you're not doing marriage God's way...you might call it love...but God calls it sin. It's time to repent, either do marriage God's way or move out, it's time to fear God and honor His covenant of Marriage...

Back to our text...

This Levite wasn't doing any of this...He valued comfort over conviction...Instead of surrendering to God's Word...Surrendering to what God wants...He did what seemed right to him...

As followers of Jesus, we look to Jesus as our example...Who constantly chose conviction over comfort...

He challenged the hypocritical religious system of His time...He was a friend of sinners...When the religious leaders wouldn't even speak to the tax collectors and the prostitutes and the other sinners...Jesus ate and drank with them...He welcomed them...He loved them...

But He never once affirmed their sin or joined in their folly...

He told them the truth in love...He said in Mark 15 ***“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”-Mk 1:15 (NLT)***

***16 But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?” 17 When Jesus heard this, he told them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”-Mk 2:16–17 (NLT)***

Probably the ultimate example of Jesus choosing conviction over comfort is in the Garden of Gethsemane...

When He's suffering in agony, knowing He's about to go to the cross...

**42 “*Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*”-Lk 22:42 (NLT)**

That's got to be our prayer too! Please know and understand something...Jesus doesn't want to make us comfortable...He wants to make us holy!

We've got to choose to say yes to God's Word as the Holy Spirit leads us...

Now I know I've said a lot and we're only 10 verses in...

So the Levite sweet talks his concubine to come back with him and he stays partying it up with her father...they go on a five-day binge of just eating and drinking...

The father-in-law wants to keep the party going but the Levite is like it's late. I want to leave before dark...

You have to remember that in those days any kind of travel was dangerous, but it's more dangerous at night...

It's getting late and they don't stop at a town called Jabus (which later on will be called Jerusalem) But at this time it's ruled by the Jebusites which were a pagan people...

He feels like it would be safer to get to an Israelite town...

**13 He added, "Come, let's try to reach Gibeah or Ramah and spend the night in one of those places." 14 So they went on, and the sun set as they neared Gibeah in Benjamin.**

***15 There they stopped to spend the night. They went and sat in the city square, but no one took them in for the night.***

Now we read this and in our culture we don't see anything wrong with that...We generally don't just let strangers spend the night...

But in this culture hospitality was and still is a big deal...

So think of it...there's no such thing as homeaway or airbnb...there's no hotels...

Travelers would sit in the town square and wait to receive hospitality from someone...In fact in **Leviticus 19** God's people were commanded to help out a traveler...

In the NT church leaders are called to be hospitable towards others including strangers...  
**(1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8; Heb 13:2)**

But here's the Levite and his concubine in an Israelite town and they're waiting and waiting and no one is inviting them in...

It's a clue that something's off...

It could be that there's no hospitality because people have just become selfish and self-centered...

Or it could be that people just want to mind their business...that's kind of a NY thing right?

Or maybe the people of the town know something that we don't know yet...That when it gets dark outside in this town...it becomes like the purge...

And they don't want to invite any trouble to their home

**16 That evening an old man from the hill country of Ephraim, who was living in Gibeah (the inhabitants of the place were Benjamites), came in from his work in the fields.** So notice that he's not originally from there...but he works and lives there now

**17**

**When he looked and saw the traveler in the city square, the old man asked, "Where are you going? Where did you come from?"** 18

**He answered, "We are on our way from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim where I live. I have been to Bethlehem in Judah and now I am going to the house of the Lord. No one has taken me in for the night. 19 We have both straw and fodder for our donkeys and bread and wine for ourselves your servants—me, the woman and the young man with us. We don't need anything." 20 "You are welcome at my house," the old man said. "Let me supply whatever you need. Only don't spend the night in the square."** What's he saying?



He's saying hey this isn't a safe place for you guys to be hanging out...You need to come to my house before the sun goes down...

***21 So he took him into his house and fed his donkeys. After they had washed their feet, they had something to eat and drink-Jdg 19:13-21 (NIV)***

This is middle eastern hospitality...and I wish the story ended here...but it doesn't, it takes a shocking turn...we're about to read some of the most disturbing scriptures in the whole Bible...

When Jesus isn't King

The weak and vulnerable are **ABUSED**

***22 While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house.***

The Hebrew word translated as wicked in the NIV is the word **bel-e-yah'-al** some scholars believe that bel-e-yah'al can be traced back to the false god

baal...Remember how people worshiped him?  
So a person who is bel-e-yah'-al would be a  
person who is throwing all decency out the  
window...

We find this word throughout the Scriptures...  
Paul used it as a synonym for satan...

***14 Do not be unequally yoked with  
unbelievers. For what partnership has  
righteousness with lawlessness? Or what  
fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What  
accord has Christ with Belial?-2 Co 6:14–15  
(ESV)***

Elsewhere we see this word bel-e-yah-al in  
association with idolatry (**Det.13**) drunkenness  
(**1 Sam 1**) and rebellion (**1 Sam 2**)

So these wicked men have surrounded the  
house... ***Pounding on the door, they shouted  
to the old man who owned the house,***

***“Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him.” 23 The owner of the house went outside and said to them, “No, my friends, don’t be so vile. Since this man is my guest, don’t do this outrageous thing. 24 Look, here is my virgin daughter, and his concubine. I will bring them out to you now, and you can use them and do to them whatever you wish. But as for this man, don’t do such an outrageous thing.”***

You may be hearing this story and thinking why is this in the Bible? It’s to highlight the level of depravity that we will sink to apart from God...the level of depravity that Israel had sunk to because they have rejected God and rejected His Word...And it gets worse...

But there’s something else strangely familiar about some of these details...Something just like this happened in Genesis 19...When two angels, who came in human form...

They met with Abraham...they went into the city of Sodom and started with Lot...

And all of the men of the city of Sodom gathered around the house of Lot, banged on the door, and demanded that Lot hand the men over to them so that they could have sex with them...When Lot refuses the two angels end up rescuing Lot and his family and destroying the city...It's very close to that story...only unfortunately there are no angels in Judges 19...So the old man is trying to put a stop to this...

***25 But the men would not listen to him. So the man took his concubine and sent her outside to them, and they raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go. 26 At daybreak the woman went back to the house where her master was staying, fell down at the door and lay there until daylight.***

***27 When her master got up in the morning and opened the door of the house and stepped out to continue on his way, there lay his concubine, fallen in the doorway of the house, with her hands on the threshold.***

***28 He said to her, "Get up; let's go." But there was no answer. Then the man put her on his donkey and set out for home.***

***29 When he reached home, he took a knife and cut up his concubine, limb by limb, into twelve parts and sent them into all the areas of Israel. 30 Everyone who saw it was saying to one another, "Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Just imagine! We must do something! So speak up!"-Jdg 19:22–30 (NIV)***

What a horrific story...

When Jesus isn't King...

When we no longer fear God...

When we no longer live by His Word...

The most vulnerable among us suffer...

We no longer respect human life...

Take slavery for example

According to the international labor organization  
an estimated 49.6 million people world-wide  
were victims of human trafficking last year!

71% of them are women and children...

Categories include but are not limited to  
sexual exploitation, forced labor, forced  
criminality, forced marriages, forced begging  
and even forced organ removal...

Apart from God, human life is treated as  
expendable...people are dehumanized and  
treated as less than...Not just when it comes to  
things like abortion, euthanasia, genocide,  
prostitution, and racism...

But when it comes to the homeless, the refugees, the widow, the elderly...

If a person isn't viewed as another person then it's easier to ignore them, exploit them, mistreat and abuse them or even exterminate them...

What's so crazy about this story is that this isn't a pagan town like Sodom...it's a town full of God's people...People who forgot that we are all made in the image of God...

This means that every human life from conception through death, should be valued, respected, nurtured and protected...

The Levite didn't value his wife, he didn't respect, nurture or protect her...He threw her out like a piece of meat to the wolves because he didn't know or fear God...

Everyone in this story...the wicked men of the city who are filled with lust...The old man who

was going to offer up his daughter to save his guest...The Levite who threw out his wife to save himself...They treated other people like they were nothing...

Why? God was no longer on their hearts or minds...They were far away from God...

Question to ask yourself... Do I believe in the sanctity of human life? Do I see all people as image bearers of God?

People who don't look like me, talk like me, think like me, worship like me, vote like me? Love like me?

We're called to love others regardless of our many differences...Don't dehumanize people because you don't like them or disagree with them...Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see them like Jesus sees them...Because Jesus died for them...Just like He died for you and me!



Okay let's finish this up...

If Jesus isn't King

A Nation (or life) without God will **FALL APART**

***20 Then all Israel from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead came together as one and assembled before the Lord in Mizpah. 2 The leaders of all the people of the tribes of Israel took their places in the assembly of God's people, four hundred thousand men armed with swords. 3 (The Benjamites heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the Israelites said, "Tell us how this awful thing happened." 4 So the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, said, "I and my concubine came to Gibeah in Benjamin to spend the night. 5 During the night the men of Gibeah came after me and surrounded the house, intending to kill me. They raped my concubine, and she died.***

Of course he leaves out the part where he threw her outside and sat down to drink another cold one and get a good night's sleep

***6 I took my concubine, cut her into pieces and sent one piece to each region of Israel's inheritance, because they committed this lewd and outrageous act in Israel. 7 Now, all you Israelites, speak up and tell me what you have decided to do.”...***

***11 So all the Israelites got together and united as one against the city-Judges 20:11-Jdg 20:1–7;11 (NIV)***

So the Israelites gather together an army of over 400,000 and go up to Benjamin and they demand that the Benjamites hand over the wicked men...

This is justice because according to **Deuteronomy 22** a person guilty of rape is to be put to death...The Benjamites won't do it...

So a civil war breaks out...and The Benjamites win the first two battles...The Israelites don't know what to do...They had decided to go to war without asking God...So now they finally seek God's guidance...

***26 Then all the Israelites, the whole army, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the Lord. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the Lord...The Lord responded, "Go, for tomorrow I will give them into your hands."-Jdg 20:26; 28 (NIV)***

And the Lord did give them the victory...but because everyone is doing what's right in their own eyes...what starts out as seeking justice turns into rage and revenge...

The sons of Israel don't just defeat the Tribe of Benjamin...they completely destroy all of the cities including all the women and children...

They would have wiped-out an entire tribe of their own people...but 600 soldiers of Benjamin that were able to escape and hide...

Had they been reading the Word of God they would have remembered that they're not to take revenge...

**18 “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord-Le 19:18 (NLT)**

*“Uninstructed zeal, even in the cause of righteousness, often goes beyond its proper limits”-G Campbell Morgan*

So Israel goes too far...and takes revenge...

Which causes more suffering...

So the Israelites know about the 600

***21 The men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: “Not one of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjamite.”-Jdg 21:1 (NIV)***

A few months go by and Israel realizes that it went too far with its brother Benjamin...

***2 The people went to Bethel, where they sat before God until evening, raising their voices and weeping bitterly. 3 “Lord, God of Israel,” they cried, “why has this happened to Israel? Why should one tribe be missing from Israel today?”-Jdg 21:2–3 (NIV)***

It's kind of like they're saying God why did You let this happen? The truth is that God never told them to do what they did...

So the Israelites make an altar to seek God but then they come up with their own idea...Have

you ever done that? Instead of saying God what should I do...we say God this is what I'm doing...Here's the plan...and it's awful

**7 “How can we provide wives for those who are left, since we have taken an oath by the Lord not to give them any of our daughters in marriage?” 8 Then they asked, “Which one of the tribes of Israel failed to assemble before the Lord at Mizpah?” They discovered that no one from Jabesh Gilead had come to the camp for the assembly. 9 For when they counted the people, they found that none of the people of Jabesh Gilead were there. 10 So the assembly sent twelve thousand fighting men with instructions to go to Jabesh Gilead and put to the sword those living there, including the women and children. 11 “This is what you are to do,” they said. “Kill every male and every woman who is not a virgin.”**

***12 They found among the people living in Jabesh Gilead four hundred young women who had never slept with a man, and they took them to the camp at Shiloh in Canaan. -Jdg 21:7–12.***

Instead of repenting for their stupid oath and giving their daughters in marriage, they decide to slaughter another city in Israel...So they commit sin to make up for their other sins

But they're still 200 women short...So now what do they do? They're sticking to this oath but they get another idea...

***19 But look, there is the annual festival of the Lord in Shiloh, which lies north of Bethel, east of the road that goes from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.”  
20 So they instructed the Benjamites, saying, “Go and hide in the vineyards***

**21 and watch. When the young women of Shiloh come out to join in the dancing, rush from the vineyards and each of you seize one of them to be your wife.** In other words we're going to allow you to kidnap a wife...Just take her and do as you please... **Then return to the land of Benjamin. 22 When their fathers or brothers complain to us, we will say to them, 'Do us the favor of helping them, because we did not get wives for them during the war. You will not be guilty of breaking your oath because you did not give your daughters to them.'** ” **23 So that is what the Benjamites did. While the young women were dancing, each man caught one and carried her off to be his wife. Then they returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the towns and settled in them. 24 At that time the Israelites left that place and went home to their tribes and clans, each to his own inheritance.** So they commit injustice to fix their injustice...they sin to fix their sin why?



**25 In those days Israel had no king;  
everyone did as they saw fit. Jdg 21:17-25  
(NIV)**

As we close today...you can see the hopelessness in these words...

You think how on earth did God's people get here? You know, I was struggling to answer this question and just couldn't find the words...

So because I have A.D.D I started scrolling through my social media feed...and unrelated to the book of Judges Pastor Mark Driscoll posted these words *"When one generation tolerates sin, the next generation will celebrate that sin, and the generation after that won't know it's a sin anymore"*

And that's how Israel got there...

And that's why our culture is here now...

But as bad as things were back then...there were exceptions...all was not lost...

It's not all **HOPELESS**

Right after the Book of Judges is the Book of Ruth...It's during the same time period we know that because the book opens "during the time of the judges"

Ruth is a woman who isn't even an Israelite...she's a foreigner...a widow...a nobody in this culture...and unlike God's own people...she trusts God...It's a beautiful story of God's redemption

Ruth gets married to a godly man named Boaz...and they name him Obed...

***22 Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David-Ru 4:22 (NIV)***

And you see David would have a son who would have a son who would have a son... Who will be called Jesus...He is the King that Israel didn't have and desperately needed...

Jesus the sinless Son of God...Left His throne and stepped into our world...stepped into a world that looks like Judges 19-21 to save us...

Unlike the injustice we see in Judges, God is a God of justice...sin cannot go unpunished...one day every wrong thing ever done will be righteously judged...

So Jesus died an excruciating death on the cross for our sins because that's how awful or sin is...the punishment fits the crime...

Jesus is more loving than the Levite...He sees our worth and our value...Instead of sacrificing His bride...to save Himself...He sacrificed Himself to save His Bride...that's us!

Jesus not only pays the price for our past sins...But His Spirit gives us the power to overcome our present sins!

We can live against the flow of the culture...

We can be the light of the world...

We can be hope dealers...

Sharing the good news with others...

Jesus is the way...

Maybe you're living a Judges 19-21

lifestyle...Maybe it's not as sick and twisted but

in reality it's still sin...Maybe you've redefined

God...Maybe you're a prejudiced

person...Maybe you take advantage of others...

There's room at the cross!

**What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?**

**Altar Time**

146,000 homeless children in the NYC school system...That's more than the population of Syracuse NY