

**EPIC POWER STRUGGLE**  
**Judges Message Series Week 6**  
Judges 8:33-9:57  
Pastor Jeff Burkholder  
November 3, 2019

**What can we learn from the life of Abimelech?**

**1. Abimelech's life was shaped by the sin of his father.**  
(Judges 8:27-31)

“There can be no doubt that Gideon’s ephod has contributed greatly to this rapid return to ‘Baalism’ and the resultant unfaithfulness to his family. The statement in 8:35 that Jerub-Baal (‘Let Baal contend’) was none other than Gideon (‘Hacker’) is only a grim reminder of the major judge’s failure against Baalism. The worship of Baal has overrun the very ones whom God delivered from Midian. The complete lack of the mention of the name ‘Gideon’ in Judges 9 is a significant choice and omission; only ‘Jerub-Ball’ occurs.”

K. Lawson Younger Jr., *The NIV Application commentary: Judges, Ruth*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2002, p. 218-219.

Implication: Deal with your sin so that it doesn’t impact your family. (1 John 1:9)

**2. Abimelech's biggest issue was his heart.** (James 3:14-16)

Implication: Search your heart because it is at the root of all your conflict. (Psalm 139:23-24)

**3. Abimelech and Shechem experienced God's justice and judgment.** (Judges 9:22, 56; Galatians 5:14-15)

Implication: Trust God to bring justice.  
(Romans 12:17-21)

“What’s wrong with people? The Bible is very clear and very simple; the answer is sin. The Bible directs us to look inside of ourselves and not outside. The Bible calls us to admit that we are our greatest problem. And the Bible chronicles how sin within distorts our thoughts, desires, choices, actions, and words. But the Bible does more. It shows us how sin puts us at war with God. It demonstrates to us how sin causes us to want to be self-sovereigns and our own lawgivers. Scripture pictures what happens when we try to set up our own little claustrophobic kingdoms of one, rather than living for the kingdom of God. The Bible requires each of us to accept, at the most practical of levels, that we have profound moral flaws within us that we can do absolutely nothing in ourselves to solve.”

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter Than Snow*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 135-136.