

Women's Bible Study

Judges 9:1-10:5

- *And the drama continues....*

1. Setting and characters-

a. Abimelech (My Father is King)-

- i. Jerubbaal's (Gideon) illegitimate son 8:31
- ii. self appointed—false god's funds 9:1-4

b. Shechem—spiritual center of Israel (this would be like reinstating slavery at Gettysburg).

- i. Genesis 12:6-7
- ii. Joshua 8: 30-35
- iii. Set aside for Levites

c. Jotham (Yahweh is perfect/blameless)-

- i. Jerubbaal's legitimate son
- ii. Fable- Bramble (thorn bush)-short and provide little shade and catch fire easily spreading to surrounding foliage destroying more valuable trees.
- iii. 9:16-20 "fire"

Reflection: God does not prize popularity, humor, or intelligence. When choosing our countries leaders, what characteristics do you look for?

2. The poetic downfall of Abimelech

- i. Shechem ambushes (die in temple of their idol)
- ii. Brothers killed on one stone 9:5 and 9:53
- iii. Behind the scenes- God in his judgment uses the tools of human rebellion against those who rebel. 9:23
- iv. Coincidence of 9:53 and 4:21—yet ever mindful of his reputation.
- v. Reminiscent of Gideon: 300 stood by while the Midianites destroyed themselves.

Reflection: “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap” (Gal. 6:7)

3. Grace (Judges 10:1-5)

- i. Tola uses the same language as Deborah = 23 years of peace
- ii. Jair= 22 years of peace
- iii. Who did Tola rise to save Israel from?— Abimelech is not the last word!

Reflection: How has God saved you from yourself?