

Women's Bible Study

Judges 17:1-21:25

1. Religion (17:1-18:31)****Externals (appearances)***

a. Micah

- Mother: orthodox-uses lord's name as source of blessing
- Thief (no humbling acceptance of the need for grace and change)
- 2nd commandment
- Makes son his priest
- Shrine looks very "committed"
- Reshape God to fit our society and hearts instead of letting God reshape our hearts and society.

b. Levite

- Why is he wondering
- Real Levite priest (The purpose of Micah's religious efforts is to get access to God so that he can get God to do what he wants.)
- Decisions based on self-interest: promotion

c. Danites

- (1:34) Failed in their military obligation and were "confined to the hill country"
- (v 6) Assured by a pagan Levite working at an idolatrous shrine
- (v 14) Take religious shrine to their new home

2. Result

1. (v.24) *What else do I have?*
2. *Self-made religion will disappoint*
3. *Levites name---descendant of Moses: no one is related to God by family tree!*
4. *Jesus is all we need!!!*

Reflection: "If we do not center our lives on Jesus as the way to approach worship, know and live with God, we are centering our lives on man-made religion; on an idol; on something that cannot bless."

3. Attitudes (19:1-21:25)***Hearts***** (Levite again??)

- a. Concubine: second-class wife/property, sex object : Genesis 2:24 (marriage is to be between one man and one woman.
- b. 4 months pass: sex or statues?
- c. Hospitality (19:1-30)
 - cultural
 - penalties for adultery? and/or leaving owner
 - Father and husband treat woman as an object to avoid disgrace/secure sexual favors.
 - Avoid Jebus (Jerusalem)
 - Benjamites (Genesis 19:1-11 Sodam and Gomorrah)
 - View of women
 - Hidden wrong doing: The men/some men, sacrificed concubine rather protecting her.
- d. Justice (20:1-41) (vengeance...for loss of property)
 - Israel unites (20:1-2) not to a judge or God, but to a immorally Levite
 - Hand over rapists?
 - (1:1 and 20:18) Inquire God (20:18 does not use covenant name) God's enemies vs. God's people. All results of the failure to conquer Canaan.
 - Justice or genocide?
- e. Restitution (21: 1-25)
 - Oath (21:1)
 - Complain (v.2)
 - Solution (v. 10-23)

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes