

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

**Warming up**

1. How do you determine what's right?
  
2. How much of it is based on your own reasoning, feelings, heart, etc? Give an example.

**Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Pastor Ruben talked about a passage from the Book of Judges. (Written by Samuel, between 1040 BC and 1020 BC). This book starts with Joshua's death and ends with King Saul's coronation. Joshua's mission was to lead the Israelites into this land known as Canaan. Several hundred years have passed since Israel entered Canaan and their leader Joshua had died. Generations of Israelites have come and gone, with each succeeding generation more Canaanized than their parent's generation.

Please read Judges 2:16-23. Talk about it!

- a. God called Israel to be a holy people. God wanted Israel to drive out the canaanites and avoid moral corruption.
  
  - b. What happened?
  
  - c. How did God test Israel in this passage?
4. Judges chapters 3 to 16 talk about it's Judges. There were 12 Judges.
    - a. Which ones were the most popular?
  
    - b. What did the spiritual life of these judges look like?
  
  5. In the Book of Judges, you see this spiritual progression. They go from pretty good to okay, to bad, to worse.

The spiritual cycle is: sin, problems, repentance, deliverance, and peace. Can you identify with this cycle?

6. Read Judges 17.
  - a. As you read it, identify what was wrong and what was right. Talk about why it was wrong.
  
  - b. There's one verse in this chapter that is mentioned four times throughout chapters 17 to 21. What is that verse?

7. One Bible scholar said this about these chapters, "Everyone doing what was right in their own eyes signifies a highly individualistic, and self-centered social reality. It was not simply that the people were self-interested. Their basis for morality, right and wrong, was centered upon their own will and desires." (JB Shreve). What are your thoughts?
8. Based on Judges 17, how would you describe life before Christ?
  - a. What does this say about our human condition?
  - b. What are your thoughts about this quote from Francis Chan? "God is the only being who is good, and the standards are set by Him. Because God hates sin, He has to punish those guilty of sin."
9. Pastor Ruben shared two lessons from this story. When it's based on your eyes alone...eventually, nothing is sacred. And, when it's based on your eyes alone...eventually, there is confusion.
  - a. Based on the story you read in Judges 17, how are these principles true?
  - b. Compare with Isaiah 5:20-21, and Proverbs 21:2.

**Application**

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- In the midst of this difficult time...you see our God of *grace*. You see how *good* God is.
- The beauty behind the Book of Judges is you see this Grace-filled, loving God.
- "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." - CS Lewis