

**“DUMB AND DUMBER”\***  
**Judges 9**

Because God created us to accomplish a purpose and to connect with people, we experience ambition and pursue attachments. But what happens when our ambition and attachments are divorced from God? Expect a dark dive.



Use the following questions to reflect on lessons from *Judges: Descent Into Darkness*. Ponder these during your quiet times, or use them as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends or REALife Group.

**I. DUMB: RECKLESS AMBITION**  
**1-21**

- A. Reckless ambition is a self-\_\_\_\_\_ life.
- B. Reckless ambition is a \_\_\_\_\_ of lives.

**II. DUMBER: RECKLESS ATTACHMENTS**  
**22-49**

- A. God may \_\_\_\_\_ reckless attachments.
- C. God will \_\_\_\_\_ with reckless attachments.

**III. DEFEAT RECKLESS ADVENTURE**

- A. Ambition: Connecting to the \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Attachments: Conditioned on \_\_\_\_\_

1. Review Judges 9:1-6. What was Abimelech willing to do to pursue his goal to be king? What does destructive ambition look like today? Have you ever had this kind of ambition?
2. Meeting at the great tree in Shechem was a way for Abimelech to put a religious spin on his irreligious ambition. Can you think of examples how people today try to religiously justify ungodly pursuits?
3. The Shechemites move from one reckless attachment to another. Has God ever shown you a wrong attachment in your life? Did you attach to God at that time or make another wrong attachment? Consider Jeremiah 2:13.
4. Examine the following verses and identify the wrong attachments people can make: 1 Cor. 15:33; 1 Tim. 6:17; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; James 2:1-7. Can you think of other wrong attachments?
5. Can you think of biblical, healthy ambitions and attachments? (e.g., see, 1 Tim. 3:1, Mat. 5:16, and Eph. 4:16.) What are your ambitions and attachments?

\*8<sup>th</sup> from “*Judges: Descent Into Darkness*”, by Danny Box, 11-19-06  
This message can be heard at [www.hbcpcf.com](http://www.hbcpcf.com) or as an iTunes podcast

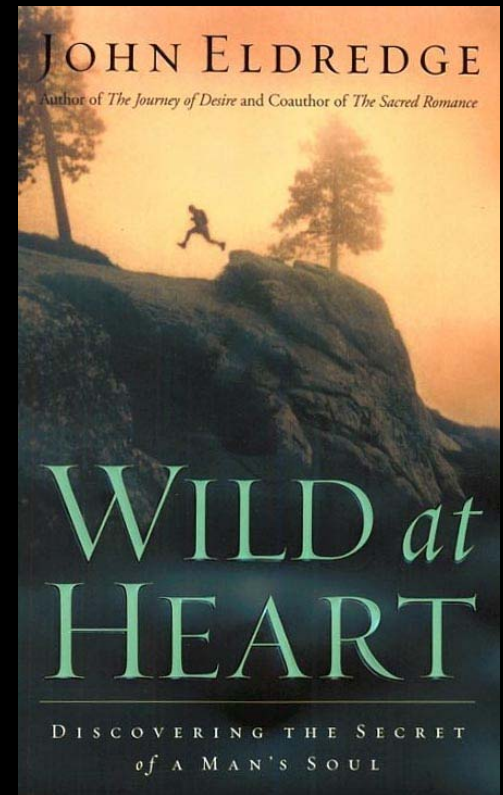


# Descent Into Darkness

The Book of Judges

“Every man has a battle to fight, an adventure to live and a beauty to rescue.”

John Eldredge



“The warrior will eat up everything if he doesn’t have a king. The king is the part of you that decides.”

-Robert Bly



“Better a patient man than  
a warrior,  
a man who controls his  
temper than one who takes  
a city.”

Proverbs 16:32

“Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.”



Henry David Thoreau

CINEMASCOPE

JAMES  
DEAN

REBEL, NICHOLAS RAY

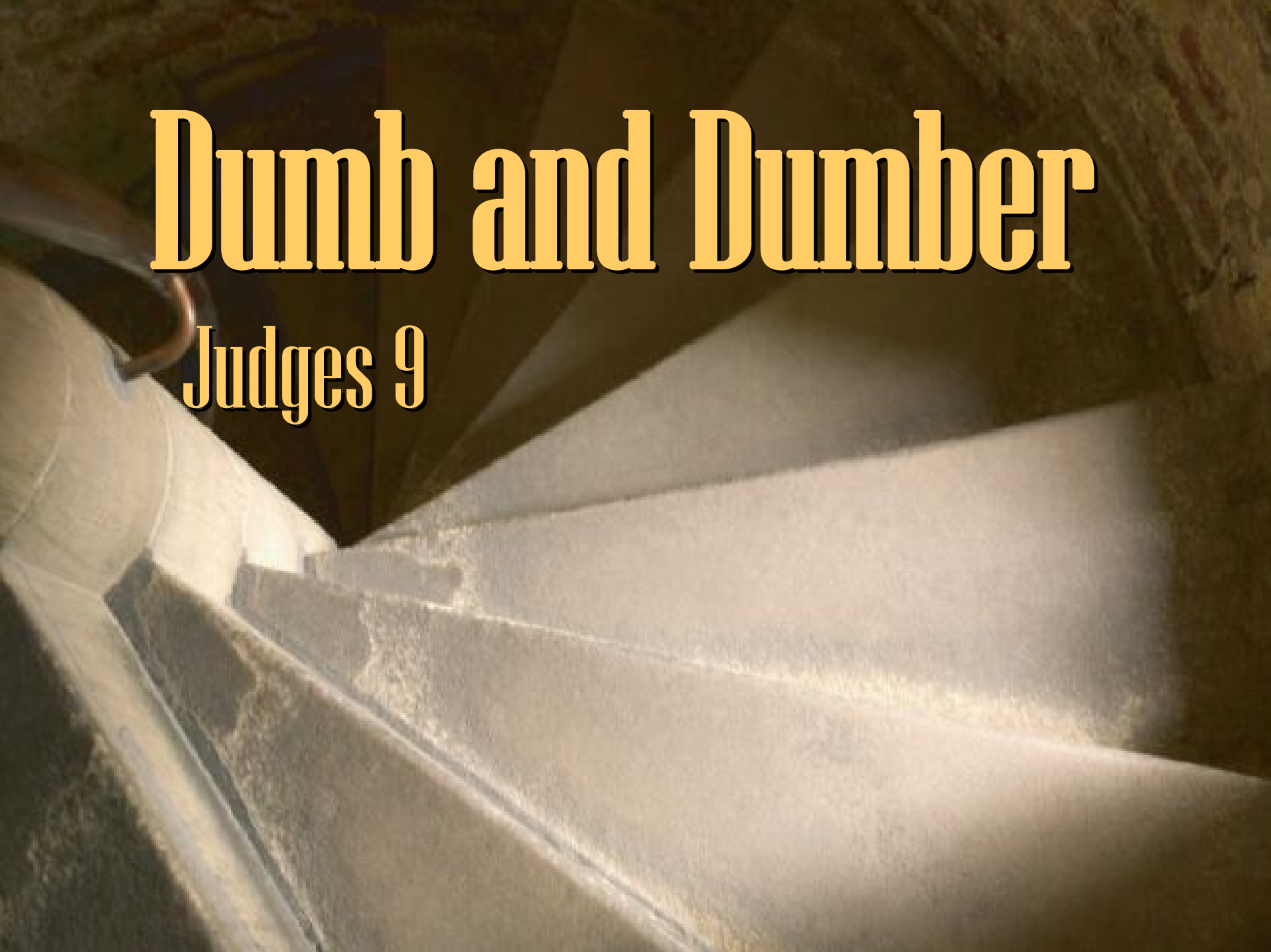
REMASTERED COLOR

"Rebel  
without  
a Cause"



# Dumb and Dumber

Judges 9





**Distress**

**Discipline**

**Disobedience**

**Deliverance**





# I. DUMB: RECKLESS AMBITION

A. Reckless ambition is a self-  
DIRECTED life.

B. Reckless ambition is a  
DESTROYER of lives.



## II. DUMBER: RECKLESS ATTACHMENTS

A. God may DISRUPT reckless attachments.

Judges 9:22-49

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”



-Jeremiah 2:13

YOU ARE THE PRODUCT  
OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE,  
HOW YOU BEHAVE, AND  
WHO YOU BEFRIEND.



## II. DUMBER: RECKLESS ATTACHMENTS

A. God may DISRUPT reckless attachments.

B. God will DEAL with reckless attachments.

Judges 9:22-49



He apologized for fighting alongside the Taliban, saying, "had I realized then what I know now ... I never would have joined them."



# III. DEFEAT RECKLESS ADVENTURE

A. Ambition: Connecting to the  
CAUSE.

B. Attachments: Conditioned on  
COMMITMENT.

Judges 9:22-27



“Expect great things from  
God, attempt great things  
for God!”

William Carey

