The Time of Judges (& Now) | Week 2

11 MEN & 1 WOMAN SET OVER ISRAEL TO JUDGE TENT PEGS, DONKEY BONES, & LEFT-HANDEDNESS

SET APART FOR GOD BUT SET IN THEIR SINFUL WAYS



THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. - Judges 21:25





COFFEE TALK

- Consider an opportunity from the past where you needed reassurance to move forward. This might be a job offer or a multi-state move or a marriage or dating relationship.

What steps did you take to find reassurance in making your decision? How did you come to determine what you were going to seek for affirmation of your decision?

Did your decision go well? If so, what did you learn from the positive aspects of your decision making? If your decision did not go well, what did you learn from the negative aspects of your decision making? (This relates to Gideon asking God for multiple confirmations about being used by God)

- Were you ever put in a situation where you had to take action but from fear of the reactions of others, you wanted to take action behind closed doors or in the darkness of night? What was that action? How did you know you were supposed to take action? How did others perceive you after you took action behind closed doors? (This relates to Gideon destroying the altar of Baal)



READ

- Judges 6-8



REFLECT

- What stood out to you in the chapters that we read? Why did that stand out to you?
- The events of Chapter 6 begin with describing the Midianites attacking and raiding the Israelites. What does the text tell us about why this was happening? Why do you think the Israelites called out twice to God? As we continue further in this pericope we see God's answer. What does God's answer reveal to us about the situation?
- Pastor Justin compares the attacks to rabbits and other pests raiding a garden and then makes the connection to sin in our lives. How might this be a helpful illustration for understanding how serious we need to take the elimination of sin in our lives?
- Chapter 7 highlights the defeat of Midian at the hands of Gideon. What can we observe from Gideon's (and

ultimately God's) process of elimination for the army that Gideon took with him? How might this decision and process highlight faithfulness?

- In Chapter 8, we see Gideon's sin and what happens to Israel after Gideon's death. Why was Gideon's actions considered wrong? What sin did he commit? Why do you think the Israelites went back to forsaking God and worshiping false gods so quickly?



- Consider your own life and how you have put God to the test to confirm for you what you think He should do? How did that turn out for you? Can you see how that is often an act of faithlessness and not an act of faith? Why or why not?
- What decisions are you now facing that you know God has revealed the answer for but you are not acting quickly on? Why is that? How can we encourage you?
- Consider your own actions lately, where might you have inadvertently caused others to sin? If you haven't caused anyone to sin, how do you safeguard against such situations? How can we encourage one another away from sin and toward Christ in this group?