

Judges 8:33-35 We need, God Wants

3/8/09/08 - The Exchange

- I. Shows that show the end and then the process of getting there.
 - A. The end - unless you do something about it, it will never change.
 - B. What is "it"? One big it made of lots of smaller its. Going to feel like a long, slow zoom-in.
 - C. Judges shuffle review. Sin, servitude, supplication, salvation, repeat
 - D. Read it all. On the surface, simply the beginning of the next shuffle. More than meets the eye.
- II. 8:33
 - A. again - turned again, turned around, went back, repeated, repented
 1. repented in a direction opposite of the Lord, again.
 2. What did they do again? Whored after, played the harlot (roll of the harlot). Very personal, very intimate, very real.
 3. The best way to avoid this pattern is to break it. Unless you do something about it, it will never change. How? Hang on.
 - B. Baal-Berith - lord of the covenant. Really? Who is the real lord of the covenant? What is a covenant?
 1. A covenant is an agreement between two parties where each side gives something to the other that they want or need, and they receive something that they want or need.
 - a) How does that work with the Lord? The Lord doesn't need anything, but he wants something; relationship. Self sufficient, yet created us for His pleasure (Rev. 4:11).
 - b) We both need and want. We need salvation. We want relationship. NASA's planet hunter, SETI. Heavens declare, DNA meets SETI requirements. Hence all the money/effort.
 - c) The deception of the enemy; counterfeit covenants. "I can give you what you need and want apart from God."
 2. The Lord is faithful. Noah, Abraham, Exodus 2:42, 6:1-5, 19:3-6, 23:31-33, 24:3-8, Deuteronomy 7:8-9. Highlight the blood. From then on out it's a pattern of Israel breaking their end of the covenant, and God being faithful to His end, generation after generation.
 3. The Messianic Covenant. Luke 1:67-75, Acts 3:25, Romans 11:26-27, Galatians 3:16, Ephesians 2:11-13, Hebrews, 2 Peter 1:2-4. God promised and delivered.
 4. The blood of the covenant. Communion, Acts 20:28 (purchased the church), Romans 3:25 (faith in), 5:8-9 (justified by), Ephesians 1:7 (redemption through), Colossians 1:20 (peace through), Hebrews (whole book), 1 Peter 1:18-19 (blood is precious), 1 John 1:7/Revelation 1:5 (cleanses from sin). Why Jesus' blood, and to what end?
 - a) Jesus is the Son of God, or else this is futile. Cults, world.
 - b) Sin is the issue, our need is freedom from it. Our nature.
 - c) Romans 10:9-10 encapsulates this.
 - C. Israel kept turned from that. Churches turn from that. Believers turn from that. Unless you do something about it, it will never change.

- III. 8:34-35 Because of what they have done, this is what happened internally and externally.
- A. Thus - in this way, but doing this
 - B. did not remember - other places use different language (forgot), same meaning.
 - 1. Intentional, not accidental. Choose not to remember.
 - 2. The core of all sin.
 - 3. Marriages, rebellious children, churches that die...
 - C. When we choose not to remember the Lord and what He has done/ is doing/will do, we will not be what the Lord intends us to be, and we will not experience the blessing he has for us.
 - 1. Unless we do something about it, it will never change. The battleship and the lighthouse.
 - 2. Israel was supposed to be a beacon to the world, the embodiment of God's covenant.
 - a) When the light goes out it blends into the darkness. It isn't noticed, it makes no difference.
 - b) That's Israel during these times.
 - 3. What is the church supposed to be? A light. Ambassadors pleading. Turning the world upside down. Disciple making.
 - a) Churches turn into social clubs, welfare centers, and cemeteries (figuratively and literally) because it is more important to be right about Jesus than to love Him (Rev. 2). Their lights go out, they blend into the darkness.
 - b) Don't even have to go that far. If our church shut down, would anybody notice?
 - c) Our church's history, as it has been told to me.
 - (1) People coming and going.
 - (2) Weak leadership.
 - (3) No lasting impact.
 - (4) A "safe" church in town.
 - (5) No presence. (lady who called while driving)
 - d) Where we are now. Body healing.
 - (1) Easier to stay healthy than recover from sickness.
 - (2) Recovery growth, not new.
 - D. We won't be anything other than what we have been, as individual believers and as a church, unless we do something about it. Because unless we do something about it, it will never change.
 - 1. Begins with strong, healthy cells. Makes for a strong, healthy body.
 - 2. Personal prayer, Bible reading, Bible study.
 - 3. Discipleship. "Count the cost." Family time. Activities. Too busy for some kind of discipleship, too busy. Re-prioritize.
 - 4. "I know I need to do better in (blank)." What are you doing about it?
- IV. Wrap up
- A. Our God is the Lord of the covenant. Repent towards, not away.
 - B. He has a purpose, a plan, a call on our lives. We need, He wants.
 - C. Remember. Unless we do something about it, it will never change.