

Judges 17-18 Where Does Your Truth Come From?

4/19/09 - The Exchange

- I. Judges Shuffle review
 - A. If there is a peak we hit it many chapter ago, all downhill.
 - B. Interesting dynamic here that reflects much of "Christian" America.
 1. Those who try to do things God's way with man's heart.
 2. Those who try to do things man's way with God's heart.
 3. Those who don't care about either.
 4. Those who do things God's way with God's heart. Minority.
 - C. Look at it from the perspective of a math equation. God gives you $1+1=2$.
 1. If you change any part of it, it is no longer correct and it is no longer what God gave you. Introduce vars, same thing.
 2. This is what is happening in these chapters. This is what has happened to much of "Christian" America. Not talking about style or expression, but the practice and the heart behind it.
- II. 17 Survey and highlight
 - A. Giving the benefit of the doubt, let's assume everyone's heart is in the right place. "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."
 1. Michah and Michah's mom have no problem with idols as a way to worship the Lord. What about the big 10?
 2. Michah makes his son his own priest. Who were the priests?
 3. Where was the Levite from and what was he doing? Where was he supposed to be and doing what?
 4. "But he wanted the Lord to be good to him. His heart was in the right place." That's nice, but that's only half of the equation. It has to be God's way with God's heart.
 - B. Giving gifts out of love
 1. Giving a gift you want the person to like, not something you know they like. Me receiving a car magazine subscription.
 2. Husband honoring his very feminine wife's birthday with an football themed party. Offends, hurt feelings.
 3. Wife honoring manly husband with a Princess Barbie party.
 4. Wanting to honor someone by vomiting on them. That's what these things are to God.
 - C. Talking about loving and serving the Lord, right? A thing is the way it is because God says so, not because we agree with it or like it.
 1. Murder is wrong because God says so.
 2. Lying is wrong because God says so.
 3. Stealing is wrong because God says so.
 4. Fornication is wrong because God says so. (define)
 5. You cannot be an unashamed murdering, lying, stealing, or fornicating Christian.
 - a) Isaiah 5:20, calling good evil and evil good.
 - b) Trying to change the equation.
 - c) Vomiting.
 6. Episcopal/Muslim priest voted out. Episcopal/Buddhist/gay in. ?!

- D. Undoubtedly makes people mad. But that's like getting mad because you get a speeding ticket. The answer isn't changing the law, it's changing your behavior.
 - E. Not trying to be mean, just what God says. Hang with me.
- III. 18 Summarize 1-26, read 27-31.
- A. 18:31 During all of this, during all the hundreds of years of this book, the house of God was in Shiloh.
 - 1. God's way with man's heart is not enough.
 - 2. Man's way with God's heart is not enough.
 - 3. God's way with God's heart is what God requires. 1+1=2.
 - 4. Where does that leave us? What do we do?
 - B. The answer to that is the same as the answer to this question; where does your truth come from? The only true source on God's way and God's heart is God's word.
 - C. Not only did God give us His word, He gave us an example; Jesus. Lived God's way with God's heart, not His own. "But I can't do that!" God knows, that's why Jesus did it for you. Crucifixion, resurrection, new life for **whosever believes**.
 - D. "But we're all going to sin, you sin, Corby, deliberately, so how is that different? If God can still love you he can still love me, so I don't see why I have to change." (I've had this conversation.)
 - 1. **Yes God loves you the way you are, but He also loves you too much to leave you that way. 1 Corinthians. 6:9-11.** You don't have to stay in the "were".
 - 2. **Yes we will still sin, but that should not be our practice. 1 John 3:4-9.** You don't have to stay in the "practicing sin".
 - 3. **Yes God gives us the means to live our His ways with His heart by means of His Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:24-25, 16.** You don't have to stay under the control of the flesh.
 - 4. Jesus has done it all for you.
- IV. In the end...
- A. All the Israelites had to do was to go back to Shiloh in order to learn God's way and God's heart. But for whatever reason, they didn't.
 - B. Are you living God's way and God's heart? Where does your truth come from? Popular opinion? Oprah? What "feels" right?
 - C. Come back to God's house, come back to God's heart, like the father of the prodigal son, he's running out to meet you with open arms.