

# Following God Away from Dysfunction

"Micah: Keep Yourself From Idols"

Judges 17-21 – June 25, 2017

## Overview of Our Study

FOLLOWING GOD AWAY FROM DYSFUNCTION		
An 11-Week Sermon Series on the Book of Judges		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Apr 15/16	On the Third Day (Jesus)	Intro to Judges
Apr 23	Learn From the Mistakes of Others (Ehud)	Judges 1-3
Apr 30	Take a Hammer to Your Oppression (Deborah)	Judges 4-5
May 7	See Yourself as God Sees You (Gideon)	Judges 6
May 14	Trust God to Do the Impossible (Gideon)	Judges 7-8
May 21	Deal with Your Anger (Abimelech)	Judges 9
May 28	Avoid Rash Decisions (Jephthah)	Judges 10-12
June 4	Surrender All to the Lord (Samson's Parents)	Judges 13
June 11	Choose Your Spouse Wisely (Samson's Marriage)	Judges 14-15
June 18	Flee Sexual Immorality (Samson & Delilah)	Judges 16
June 25	Keep Yourself from Idols (Micah)	Judges 17-21
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## Outline of Judges 17-21

THE APOSTASY OF ISRAEL			
IDOLATRY	The Personal Idolatry of Micah	17:1-13	17:6
	The Tribal Idolatry of Dan	18:1-31	18:1
IMMORALITY	The Personal Immorality of a Levite	19:1-10	19:1
	The Tribal Immorality of the Benjaminites of Gibeah	19:11-30	
WAR	Israel Almost Destroys the Entire Tribe of Benjamin	20:1-48	21:25
	Getting Wives for the Benjaminites	21:1-25	

**The Main Point of Judges 17-21** – The author of Judges is trying to get across one major point as he tells the sad story of this part of Israel's history: "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)

## Indicators That Israel Was Not Allowing Yahweh To Be Their King:

1. Micah built an idol and installed his own personal "priest" (17:1-13).
2. The Danites stole and adopted Micah's idol and "priest" as their own (18:1-31).
3. A Levite had a mistress and treated her inhumanely (19:1-30).
4. The Benjaminites of Gibeah tried to sodomize a Levite visitor, but then instead raped and killed the Levite's mistress (19:1-30).
5. The Israelites almost eliminated an entire brotherly tribe (Benjamin) through civil war (20:1-21:25).

**The Main Application:** Judges 17-21 is a wake-up call against \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## What is Syncretism?

- American Heritage Dictionary: "Syncretism is the fusion of differing systems of belief."
- Ed Stetzer: "Syncretism is the mixing of Christianity with something else such that they become a different gospel. Haitian Voodoo is an example of syncretism that mixes animistic religious practice with Christianity."
- Daniel Pentimone: "Syncretism is the fusion of two worldviews or religions into a single belief pattern. When 'Christians' in Latin America keep Bibles in their car as a sort of 'charm' to prevent bad luck, that is syncretism. When Tanzanians go to church on Sunday, and go to the witch doctor on Monday for relief from evil spirits, that is syncretism."

## Examples of Syncretism in Judges 17-21

1. Micah's Mom dedicated her recovered money to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ an idol (17:3)
  - Mixing worship of God with worship of idols
  - **Exodus 20:3-5** – You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord, am a jealous God.

2. Micah practiced the worship of God \_\_\_\_\_ idols using a shrine and an ephod and household gods (17:5)
3. Rather than tithing to God's ordained temple and priestly system, Micah gave money to his own personally chosen cause and his own personal priest (17:10)
  - **Numbers 18:21** – *I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting.*
  - **Malachi 3:10** – *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My House.*
4. Rather than submitting to the leadership of God's ordained priestly system, Micah ordained his own personal priest (17:12)
  - Numbers 3-4,8 give the job description of the Levites who are to do the work of the tabernacle at the place God chooses for His Tent of Meeting.

**Today's Application** – In what ways have I bought into syncretistic beliefs and practices? In what ways have I mixed my Biblical beliefs with the beliefs of the culture around me? What syncretistic beliefs and practices do I need to drop?

### **Examples of Syncretism in America Today** (Jim's List)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel – a mixing of Christianity with materialism
2. Individualism – a mixing of Christianity with the American dream
3. \_\_\_\_\_ – a mixing of Christianity with window shopping
4. Pluralism – a mixing of Christianity with relativism
5. Nominalism – a mixing of Christianity with me-ism
6. American Christmas – a mixing of Christianity with the holidays
7. American Easter – a mixing of Christianity with the holidays
8. Selective Obedience – a mixing of Christianity with me-ism
9. Metro Church – a mixing of Christianity with sexual culture
10. Philanthropy – a mixing of Christianity with my self-selected causes
11. Theistic Evolution – a mixing of Christianity and Charles Darwin
12. New Age – a mixing of Christianity and Hinduism
13. Coexist – a mixing of all religions
14. Traveling Teams – a mixing of Christianity and sports
15. The American Dream – a mixing of Christianity and workaholism
16. Aggie Cult – a mixing of Christianity and Aggie zeal
17. \_\_\_\_\_ – a mixing of Christianity and works-based religion
18. Family Religion – a mixing of Christianity and family of origin tapes

### **My Personal Application**

- **1 John 5:21** – *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*
- **Romans 12:2** (NLT) – *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*
- **Acts 17:11** – *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*
- **2 Corinthians 11:3** – *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
- **Today's Application** – In what ways have I bought into syncretistic beliefs and practices? In what ways have I mixed my Biblical beliefs with the beliefs of the culture around me? What does it look like for me to be a Berean and to test my beliefs against God's Word? What idols do I need to dethrone in my life? What syncretistic beliefs and practices do I need to drop?
  - ☐ The Prosperity Gospel – a mixing of Christianity with materialism
  - ☐ Individualism – a mixing of Christianity with the American dream
  - ☐ Church Hopping – a mixing of Christianity with window shopping
  - ☐ Pluralism – a mixing of Christianity with relativism
  - ☐ Nominalism – a mixing of Christianity with me-ism
  - ☐ American Christmas – a mixing of Christianity with the holidays
  - ☐ American Easter – a mixing of Christianity with the holidays
  - ☐ Selective Obedience – a mixing of Christianity with me-ism
  - ☐ Metro Church – a mixing of Christianity with sexual culture
  - ☐ Philanthropy – a mixing of Christianity with my self-selected causes
  - ☐ Theistic Evolution – a mixing of Christianity and Charles Darwin
  - ☐ New Age – a mixing of Christianity and Hinduism
  - ☐ Coexist – a mixing of all religions
  - ☐ Traveling Teams – a mixing of Christianity and sports
  - ☐ The American Dream – a mixing of Christianity and workaholism
  - ☐ Aggie Cult – a mixing of Christianity and Aggie zeal
  - ☐ Legalism – a mixing of Christianity and works-based religion
  - ☐ Family Religion – a mixing of Christianity and family of origin tapes
- Josiah – An example of someone who did the opposite of syncretism by ridding his kingdom of its false and unbiblical elements no matter what the culture thought of him (2 Chronicles 34-35). The opposite of syncretism is repentance, removing idols, reforming, and revival.