

How Low Can We Go? Our Hope in King Jesus!

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Judges 19:1-30

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Summary of Micah so Far

Judges 17:1-6

- Micah & family had shrine in opposition to God's will
- Danites, unsatisfied, sought a better, easier land
- To remain religious they stole Micah's idols & priest
- This self-made religion didn't end well for anyone^{1K12:29;2K15:29}

A People Without a King

- This story is key to rebellion, Hosea^{9:9;10:9} refers to it
- 19:1 there was no king in Israel...
- They didn't need a king they had God Himself, law, tabernacle, Levites: Ex 6:7 - I will be your God

Another Rogue Levite

- this Levite has concubine, 2nd class wife, sexual favor
- Scripture never shows this in favorable light
- God's intent: 1 man + 1 woman for life
- So Levite w/ concubine=self-centered, not God-focused

Trouble Unpacked

- Not healthy relationship, concubine sins & flees to father
- Levite waits 4 months to retrieve her
- Concubine's father gladly welcome Levite - 5 day stay!
- We're told nothing of woman's desire to return, only men
- Only named character is Phineas^{20:28} suggesting 'type'

Wow, Can Words Describe This?

- After 5 days, Levite finally takes concubine and heads home
- Won't stop at Jebus (Jerusalem) under Jebusite control
- Pushes on until Gibeah¹⁴⁻¹⁵, waits in square for hospitality
- We're left to wonder why no hospitality offered except by sojourner from Ephraim

The Heart of Gibeah Revealed

- They prepare to spend night, but parties surround house
- Brave owner begs men not to do this
- Remember this is descriptive, not prescriptive!
- We are to be shocked at attack, offering women, etc.
- Sin culture treated women as 2nd class, not God's way
- God created in the image of God male and female^{Gen 1:27}
- We're led to make parallels between Sodom^{Gen19} & here
- We're being shown Israel is no better than the pagans

The Lowest of the Lows

- The crowd abuse the concubine, let her go at dawn
- She crawls to house, master wakes and tells her to get up
- Throws her on donkey and goes home - what inhumanity!

A Gruesome Message to Israel

- Getting home, Levite cuts up concubine into 12 pieces
- Send the gruesome message to all parts of the Israelite territory
- Everyone was horrified! 19:30

So What Do We learn?

- We should be shocked & mourn... these were God's people!
- We should always examine ourselves to see if we are like the Gibeonites or the Levite...
- We often don't like to live cross-examined^{1 Cor 12:28} lives
- Remember we have King Jesus - that's the heart of the Gospel! None of us is righteous by ourselves or by our actions, we are only righteous by faith in God's provision - King Jesus!
- King Jesus doesn't leave us in our sins, He gives us His Spirit so we can walk in holiness and new obedience!