

Brother Against Brother

June 20, 2021
Judges 20:1-48

Pastor Mark Turner
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Judges 19

The Setting

- Levite priest w/ concubine stay at Gibeah
- Gibeonites desire relations, concubine given out, ravaged
- Levite cuts up concubine sends to pieces to Israel

A Strong Response with a Tale

- Unfortunately Israel unites quickly, 400K gather
- Levite tells his story^{Pr18:17} w/ 'humilty'^{r20:7}
- Israel responds quickly with a plan for retribution
- Benjamin asked to give up the guilty¹² they refuse
- Israel 400K men; Benjamin 26,700 men

Israel asks the Wrong Question

- Israel sought God's guidance¹⁸ but not if they should do it
- Their decision was made & they wanted God to bless it

A Civil War

- 1st day disaster for Israel - lost 22K; then wept before Lord
- Inquired again of the Lord, 2nd day - lost 18K
- Again weeping, fasting & now sacrifices²⁶ thru high priest
- NOW they asked if they should go out to battle!
- Lord answered and told them HE would give them into hand
- Israel almost wipes out Benjamin - only 600 warriors remain

Lessons:

- Israel acted in revenge with a root of bitterness^{Heb12:15}
- If only Israel had looked to God's mercy & sought His Word
- How can we be forgiving & not revengeful?
- KNOW what forgiveness is! Lk 17:3-6
- Forgiveness is a promise to:
 - not bring the wrong up with the person or others
 - not bring it up in your own thoughts
 - to not dwell on the hurt or nurse ill-will
- Without Christ this is not possible, but Gospel make it^{2 Cor 10:5}
- If you struggle with forgiveness - dwell & think deeply on HOW God has forgiven you... use the Ten Commands & Confession to guide you: <https://chapellibrary.org:8443/pdf/books/tcft.pdf>
- We will have sad chapters in our history if we like Israel fail to seek God and His Word first. It is dangerous for us to do what is right within our own eyes!

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