**Mercy and Hope through Tragedy**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 7: Judges

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

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**SERMON NOTES**

1. **Israel’s Disobedience Begins their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (1-2)
   * Did not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ Canaanites

Israel’s Cycle

1. Sin
2. Oppression
3. Repentance
4. Deliverance
5. Peace
   * Influenced to follow other gods
6. **Israel Spirals into Moral Corruption**
7. The “Hero” judges (3-5)

* Othniel – defeated oppressive king
* Ehud – stabbed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ King Eglon
* Deborah – defeats king of Canaan (Jael \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sisera)

1. The flawed judges (6-16)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Judge | Flaws | Successes |
| Gideon | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ faith  Built an idol | Destroyed idol  Defeated Midian |
| Jephthah | Sacrificed daughter | Defeated Ammon |
| Samson | Disregarded God’s Law  Fought his own battles | Killed many Philistines |

1. **Moral Decadence in Israel** (17-21)

* Micah’s Shrine – Danites steal \_\_\_\_\_ and murder people of Laish
* Levite & his concubine – Gibeah abuses and kills woman, sparking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ and near elimination of tribe of Benjamin

**Lessons from Judges**

1. Tragedy: Rejecting God’s Law increasingly leads to moral deprivation
2. Mercy: Strikingly, God repeatedly shows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Israel
3. Hope: “There was no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_” anticipates the development of God’s plan

**Answers: Downfall,** drive out, **fat,** spikes, **Weak,** idol, **civil war,** mercy, **king**

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

Bible Study / Prayer

Review Joshua 24:14-28, marking every reference to Israel serving God. Next, read the last verse of Judges, noticing the difference. Lastly, read Judges 1:16-36, marking every time Israel failed to drive out the Canaanites.

According to Judges 2:1-5, what was the reason for the downfall of Israel?

1. “Driving out the Canaanites” What influences does Satan use as pathways for temptation, and how can you negate that influence?
2. Review “Israel’s Cycle.” How did each stage of the cycle lead to the next stage? What warnings do you see for the modern believer in this cycle?
3. Gideon put a fleece out because his faith in God was weak. What does that teach us about the modern practice of “putting out a fleece” for God?
4. Discuss the moral decadence reached in Israel in ch. 17-21. How does that serve as a warning for us against beginning to resist God’s rule in our lives?
5. Remember God’s mercy for Israel throughout Judges. Each person in the group, pray a personal prayer of gratitude for the mercy He has shown you.