



RIGHT IN OUR OWN EYES



In this chapter you will ...

- (1) Recognize the judgment cycle in Judges.
- (2) See where Israel failed in being led by God.
- (3) Grieve over God's people wanting to be like everyone else.
- (4) Marvel at our Kinsman-Redeemer.

I Samuel 8:1-9 - God Rejected as King



We move from the powerful displays of the Almighty King leading His people out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land ... to now, a people who no longer want to be distinct, but want what everyone else has. This is the sad next chapter of God's holy nation, exchanging in God as King, for a king like all the other unholy nations. How did they get there? Through periods of sin and repentance, failed leaders, and fallen sons, they had lost trust in the God who delivered them. Now they were eager to throw off their distinct identity as God's treasured possession and fit into the land to which they had been commissioned to be a witness. They now saw the unique position they carried before the nations as a burden they wanted to shed. God granted their request. They would reap the natural consequences of choosing man over God, their own ways over His perfect ways ... and it would hurt.



Man's Role and God's Role

God has called His people to be holy ...period. That means that honor and obedience to Him is not optional. It is the joyful expectation of all God's children. And when sinful choices are made, consequences follow ... God will not share His glory with another. And at the very same time, God is unwavering in His commitment to the unilateral covenant He made to His own. He will never break covenant with those He loves. He may bring discipline, what loving father doesn't? But He will not forsake His people. In this chapter we see both of these things so clearly.

Jesus, Our Kinsman-Redeemer



The book of Judges is one of the darkest periods in Israel's history. The stories depict the grotesque, debauched, and unbridled sinfulness of a people who do whatever seems right in their own eyes. Where is the redemptive thread of the story? Where do we see Jesus in this period? One only needs to turn to the very first verse of the very next book to answer that question. *"In the days when the judges ruled ... (Ruth 1:1).* Here in the book of Ruth we discover one of the most beautiful pictures of redeeming love. A man who would gladly lose his own inheritance to preserve another's. And not only do we see in this historical period the "seed of the woman" preserved through the line of Boaz and Ruth, but we see Jesus - The One who willingly laid aside heaven to take on the form of a man to redeem man. *"He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."*

Story-Tellers Takeaways ...

- (1) The only way to get off the "sin-judgment merry-go-round" is through repentance.
- (2) You can't say you want to be led by God and still do things your own way.
- (3) Do not love the world ... this is still God's plan for His people. Learn to live as an alien!
- (4) Even in the darkest periods, God preserves a light. He is ever faithful to His promises and ever committed to His redemptive purposes in the world.

My Notes:

How to Read the Story ... the Big into the Small, and the Small into the Big ... all to Penetrate Our Hearts!

Feathers - You must have an understanding of the epic narrative of God's story ... this is Biblical Theology that guides our reading of the story.

Shaft - You must approach each text of Scripture honestly and openly ... this is Exposition of Scripture that shapes our understanding of the story.

Point - You must have a soft heart to worship the author of the story ... this is Gospel Centeredness that changes life.

For Discussion:

- (1) Where are you right now in the "sin-judgment-repentance-rescue" cycle?
- (2) Discuss what areas of your life are the hardest for you to not just do "what seems right in your own eyes".
- (3) What things make you feel like a stranger in the world? Do you feel those enough? Why not?
- (4) What makes you want to throw off your identity as God's treasured possession for lesser things? What is it in the world that draws you into being like "the other nations"?