

MIT 2017

Judges, Kings, and Prophets

Quiet Times

Josiah Quiet Time

2 Kings 22:8-11

- Josiah was exposed to the word (the law) for the first time. Josiah was faithful to God and was cut to the heart when he found that what was being done was displeasing to God
- Can you remember the first time you encountered God's word, learning for the first time what made God feel loved and what it meant to him that you were obedient to him?

- Do you still feel deeply moved and cut that God loves you and has put the commands there to protect you?

- How did you respond?

Psalm 14:1-6, 2 Corinthians 34:3

2 Kings 22:11-13

- Josiah was quick to act after he heard the words of the Book of the Law. Josiah sends an order to his people to inquire with the Lord about what is written in the book, on his and the people of Judah's behalf.
- Do you get advice or pray whenever you are having issues with understanding scripture or making decisions based on them?

- Do you go to experienced disciples for help, or just one person?

2 Kings 22:17

- The Lord was greatly angered because the people of Jerusalem had forsaken him, they created idols with their hands.
- If we could try to compare this to our relationship with others, how would you feel if your friends or even your family had forgotten about you?

Exodus 20:3-6, Joshua 23:16

2 Kings 23:19-20

- The choice Josiah had made influenced his people greatly and how their lives are with God.

Proverbs 4:26-27, 2 Kings 22:2, 2 Kings 23:3

Miriam

Theme: Judgement

What is judgment to you?

Have you ever been judged?

How did that make you feel?

Have you ever judged someone else?

How do you think that would make them feel?

Let's dive into Miriam and what judgement played in her life.

Who was Miriam? What was her role in God's Kingdom?

Exodus 15:20-21

Prophetess- high character, noble, spoke of what was to come

What did she do?

Numbers 12:1-15

How was she judgmental?

Why was being judgmental?

What made her judgmental?

How did God respond?

Numbers 12:9-10

Why did respond this way?

Hebrews 12:10-11

We see that despite Miriam's position she was flawed.

God responded in love and disciplined her accordingly.

Let's remember how God feels about judgement.

Instead of comparing ourselves to others; let's remember and be grateful for who God made us out to be.

Pride Comes Before the Fall

Absalom

Group 6

Read 2 Samuel 13

-Absalom allow the traumatic experience to control him (13:22, :28-29)

Read James 1:19-20 what situations cause you to be angry? How can you take a step back to reevaluate?

-Are you being controlled by your feelings or are giving them to God? Absalom held it's feelings and instead of talking about it and getting advice.

-In your ministry what could cause you to allow bitterness to control your actions?

Read 2 Samuel 14

-Not everyone is sent from God always be sure that who you're following is from God and leading you to God. In Acts 17:11 the Berean's made sure to fact check everything they heard.

Galatians 5:16-18

-Absalom allowed worldly attributes to be his glory and his drive. What things other than God can control and drive you?

-As a leader or person in your ministry are you trying to gain glory for yourself or give it to God?

Read 2 Samuel 17:24-18:20

Read proverbs 16:18- Absalom's pride led to his destruction. As leaders it is important to be focused on bringing God glory and nothing else.

-Are you currently glorifying God in all that you do?

Foundational Scripture: 1 Kings 22: 1-28

•1 Kings 22: 1-6

->What's something you notice about the Kings?

---they are working together and they have a mission to retake Ramoth Gilead

->Do they just go and immediately retake the land? Why?

---No, because they brought together the prophets "about 400 men" (v. 6)

->What's interesting you see about the King of Israel?

---he seeks advice from the prophets

•1 Kings 22: 7-12

->Jehoshaphat asks a question & how does the King of Israel respond?

---he responded a little angry especially making the statement (v. 8) "but I hate him...me"

->What did the King of Israel do? (v. 9)

---he sent an official to bring Micaiah to hear what he has to say

---(v. 12) all the prophets were saying the same thing

•1 Kings 22: 13-18

->What do they want out of Micaiah?

---to side with all the tiger prophets and the king

---(v. 18) King of Israel (Ahab) still in disbelief

•1 Kings 22: 19-28

->Micaiah has a conversation with who? The Lord

->What is the conversation about? (v. 19-23)

---Zedekiah doesn't like what Micaiah says and what does he do? (Slaps him)

->Do you think we can get like that when people in our life tell us the truth and we don't like it?

->What does the King of Israel do? (v. 26)

Questions:

1. What do you notice from Micaiah that really stands out?

• truthful •unwavering obedience to God

2. How is having unwavering obedience towards God?

3. Do you seek advice that speaks the truth?

4. Do you seek what you want to hear?

Elisha: The Prophet and Wonder-Worker

Who was Elisha?

- Protege of Elijah
- Called by God
- Followed in Elijah's footsteps
- Succeeded him as prophet

The Calling of Elisha:

1 Kings 19:19-21 NIV

-Elisha left everything he had and immediately answered the call

- When God calls you, is there hesitation?
- Is there anything holding you back from serving Him?
- Is there any sin or situation that you must go back and "slaughter" to fully commit to God's work?

2 Kings 2:1-4 NIV

[1] When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. [2] Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. [3] The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet." [4] Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

-Elisha did not want to leave Elijah no matter what!

-He wanted to stay with his leader/mentor as long as possible before he left

-Elisha was loyal

-How much are we willing to learn and soak up knowledge from our leaders and mentors in our life?

-Do we have mentors in our lives? If not, seek them out!

2 Kings 2:9 NIV

“When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.”

-Of all the things that Elisha could've asked for, he asked for a "double portion of your spirit."

-Elisha then went off to do even more miracles than Elijah

Closing questions:

1 Who is leading/mentoring you?

(If no one, find someone and soak up knowledge! This is how we grow!)

1 Are you leading mentoring anyone else?

2 In what ways can you imitate Elisha's attitude and faith this week?

Humility (2 chronicles 26 1-15)

Uzziah was appointed king at the age of 16? Yet he was successful, why?

1. He sought the lords favor. He knew his success came from God!

***Who do you attribute your success to?

2. Uzziah was hard working, he rebuilt Elath and build towers, and cisterns.

***Are you building towards anything?

3. He relied on Gods word, and the people God put in his life (Zachariah)

***How's your time with God?

***Are you seeking God's favor?

***Do you have anyone in your life like Zachariah, and helps with your spiritual walk?

4. He didn't do things alone, he appointed leaders. They were ready to head to war.

***Do you let other's in your life?

***Do you stand by your leaders, ready to give it all?

Uzziah's Pride (2 Chronicles 26:16-23)

1. So we see here that Uzziah pride was his downfall, but what do you think led to his pride?

2. How do you credit your victories and success to?

3. It's weird how Uzziah reigned "faithfully" to the lord for 52 years and then in a matter of moments fell away. Do you think think Uzziah heart was always focused on God's intentions or his own intentions

4. How is it going for you? As a disciple are you living humbly for God or are you living pridefully for yourself?

Proverbs 3:34

Always remember God is on the side of those who are on his!

Deborah: Character Study

1. Boldness

A. She was the first woman

Judges 4:4-5

-Think of how it must've felt to be Deborah, the pressure to do good & the expectation of failure.

B. She commanded for the Lord

Judges 4:6-7

-keep in mind that this was a woman who is now commanding a man

-do you feel this bold for God?

2. Obedience

A. She was confident in God's commands

Judges 4:15

"GO!"- How far will you go for God?

B. She took immediate action

Judges 4:8-9

-"certainly I will go"

-how quick are you to answer God's call?

3. Worship

A. She sang praise where it was needed

-"My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people" (Judges 5:9)

-She commended Jael at length, calling her "most blessed of tent-dwelling women" (Judges 5:24)

-Of course she also sang praise to God but also didn't do that alone but instead sang with Barak (Judges 5:1&3)

-Where is your heart for the Lord and his blessings?

Practicals

1. Obey the Lord

- insist his will, not your own

2. Take action

- be quick to answer the call, and put into action what God is telling you

3. Give praise where it is needed/deserved

- in song, in prayer, in sacrifice, in words

4. "March on, my soul; be strong!"

- live by the motto of Judges 5:21

From Jehu to Jesus

- Radical Opposition to Idolatry

Read **2 Kings 10:18-30**

In this scripture, Jehu deceived all worshippers of Baal into entering the temple to make sacrifices. Afterwards, he destroyed the worshippers, the temple and the idols. As a result, God was pleased with Jehu's radical destruction of idolatry.

Read **Matthew 21:12-13 & Matthew 18:9**

- 2 What are the similarities we see between Jehu and Jesus?
- 3 What is their shared stance on idolatry?
- 4 What idols do you need to identify and be radical about in your own life?
- 5 How is it going identifying and confronting idols in the lives of people you see around you?

II. Radical Spiritual Goals

Read **2 King 9:17-22**

Jehu and his troops rode to Jezreel to confront the people's idolatry and practices of witchcraft. Although many messengers came forward requesting peace, Jehu was unable to peacefully proceed until their sin had been confronted. Jehu did not let opposition stand in the way of reaching his goal.

Read **Matthew 16:21-23 & Luke 13:32-33**

- 3 What are the similarities we see between Jehu and Jesus?
- 4 What is their shared stance on how they deal with opposition toward their goals?
- 5 Who were the people that stood in opposition to Jehu and Jesus?

In Matthew 16, Peter was a good-hearted disciple who loved Jesus but did not have in mind the

things of God and unintentionally stood as a stumbling block to Jesus' overall goals. We learn that opposition is not just limited to "bad" people but can be anyone.

- Identify for the spiritual goals you have for yourself and your ministry.
- Identify potential sources of opposition and how you can overcome such opposition in a righteous way.

Huldah

A Bold and Honest Prophetess

King 22: 14-20

- Huldah lived in Jerusalem at a time when its citizens did not love God and worship other gods.
 - She was a prophetess who was spiritually alone. Despite this, she didn't hide away, but was able to be found.
- Huldah was known for saying God's Word, even when people didn't know what God's truth was
Are you known for speaking God's truth?
- Huldah shows her love for God by proclaiming what He told her and spread it to all of Jerusalem. She knew that by spreading her faith with others, they would be given a chance to be saved!
Who am I a Huldah for? If I'm not, what steps should I take to be Huldah?
Who is a Huldah for me?

Psalms 19:2, Proverbs 20:15, Psalm 27:30

- Huldah didn't just say what she thought, she knew better than to change God's word around when she gave word to Josiah. She said word for word God's truth.
- There is value in God's truth, even when it's unpopular.
Are you too selfish to risk conflict? Do you hide God's truth from non-believers or do you take the easy road and say what everyone says to avoid an awkward situation?

Galatians 1:10

- Huldah told a king his kingdom would come to ruin, but she was not intimidated.
Who intimidates you? Are you willing to speak God's truth to your parents? To non-disciple friends?

Ephesians 4:25

- *Are you intimidated by people in the church? Do you avoid certain people because they challenge you?*

Jeremiah 20:9

- The prophet Isaiah was burning with God's word. He could not physically hold back.
What are you burning to say or does it even bother you that you don't say anything?

Queen of the South (Sheba)

1 Kings 10:1-13

Summary:

The Queen of Sheba heard about a man named Solomon and how close he was to God. She wanted to see for herself if this was true, so she traveled 1200 miles just to talk to Solomon about everything she had on her mind. Solomon was able to answer every question she had, and from seeing how Solomon's kingdom was built, she was overwhelmed and at a loss for words. She then realized that the rumors about Solomon were true: that he truly was close to God, and that he was chosen by God to lead His kingdom. From what she had seen and heard, she decided to give to Solomon a part of her wealth.

The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's relationship with God and travelled 1200 miles to ask him questions.

- Do people hear/see your faith and people want to know more?
- Are you examining things deeper or leaving questions unanswered? How eager are you to get your questions answered?
- What was she thinking about when we decided to travel so far? She had her own duties and responsibilities and was willing to put them on hold to learn more. What are you willing to put on hold just to learn more.
- She did not abuse her power, but rather sought after the truth so that she did not deceive her hearers. In tough situations are you willing to ask questions or avoid them? It takes humility to ask more. Especially if you are in a leadership position, will you humble yourself enough to ask the questions that need answering.
- Her gift was to God, not to Solomon. How are we in our giving? Are we giving out of respect and reverence for God or out of habit? Are we giving at all?

Scripture to meditate on Luke 11:31

Solomon took her breathe away by his wisdom, does Jesus take your breathe away?

What Is Your Delilah?

Samson was a very strong man, and God gave him a lot of power, but he wasn't always good.

Judges 15:1-3, Judges 16:1-17

1) Idolatry - finding comfort in other things instead of God.

a) Your heart becomes hard toward God.

b) Look at Samson's actions -- he likely put himself in the position to lie with the Gazite prostitute because he had residual anger from his wife being handed over to the Philistines.

i) But you can't set yourself up to sin in the first place. That's what Samson did with the Gazite woman, and that's what he did with Delilah.

c) Samson's focus isn't God -- he never turned to God or anyone else during the time he was with Delilah.

i) We can feel ashamed when we fall into sin, feel like God can't use us. We feel unworthy of God; we feel guilty, ashamed.

ii) Samson didn't go to God until it was too late. Go to God immediately when things go wrong, or when you fall.

2) God takes delight in using imperfect people

a) The whole Bible is full of imperfect people: David, Jonah, Paul, Peter. The only perfect one was Jesus!

i) God wants to show His strength through our weaknesses.

ii) God wants to use people whose hearts are for him, no matter what sin exists in their lives.

b) See the example of Moses in Exodus 3:7-15 , Exodus 4:1-5,10-17

3) Consequences (Judges 16:18-31)

a) God left Samson

- Look at your actions - what are you doing? Samson's love for Delilah was greater than his love for God, and when he gave in to her, God was not with him.

i) Once you decide to turn away from God and give in, you miss out on God in your life.

- If you're falling into sin and you know the decisions you make are wrong, are you willing to accept the consequences for your actions?

b) God is faithful.

i) God is there always, though there are consequences for our actions. God will be there no matter what.

Practicals

- How is your vulnerability?

- What stands in your way of seeing God?

- What are the Delilahs of your ministry as a whole?

- What can you do to see God more clearly?

Samson had a tragic flaw - weakness of the flesh (Matthew 26:41) - but he still had a willing

and righteous heart. And that's what God looks for in each of us. So look at your life: where is your heart? If you feel like you still want to live for God, ask yourself this: **What is your Delilah?**

"Doing What Is Right In The Eyes of the Lord"

1) Influences

- a) 1 Kings 16:29-33
 - i) How did Ahab start off wrong and what could he have done right in the eyes of the Lord?
 - (1) Deuteronomy 16:21-22; 7:3-4
- b) Who we surround ourselves with has an impact in our lives. After marrying Jezebel, a Sodomite, Ahab's life and reign as the King of Israel was negatively impacted.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 6:14
- c) Do you have any outside influences that distract you from your walk with God?

2) An Unconditional Love

- a) 1 Kings 20:13-17; 21:17-29
 - i) Both passages show God's grace towards Ahab, even after he did the most evil in his eyes. (16:30)
 - (1) However, since Ahab humbled himself before the Lord he was not directly punished because of Naboth's death, his sons will have to suffer for his wicked choice. (21:27-29)
 - (2) Like Ahab, have you taken advantage of God's grace and pick and choose when to follow Him out of convenience? Or do you follow God with an unconditional love and obedience?
 - (a) As broken people in need of His love, we need to humble ourselves and seek the Lord wholeheartedly.
 - (i) Jeremiah 29:11

3) Courage

- a) 1 Kings 21
 - i) When you need disciplining do you go to someone who will tell you what you want to hear? Or do you go to the person who will tell you the truth about what you need to do?
 - (1) Leviticus 25:23-24
 - (a) Naboth was only doing what was right and following the Lord's commands by denying Ahab.
 - (b) Are you like Naboth, in times of persecution, standing up to the King of Israel or are you like Ahab disobeying God's command in pursuit of your own gain?

Elijah

What will Drive you? God or your Fears?

1 Kings 17 & 19

Something we notice is how bold a Elijah's prayer is, and his faith in God, and how he relied on him, and trusted in God's power.

God took care of Elijah in everyday possible, Fed by birds, and when that no longer worked he provided a widow which he would turn around and help with her son dies.

How has God provided in for you in times of trouble?

Do you help others when you get help?

During the semester we regularly meet as a bible talk and have activities plan, go sharing, and generally have a fire for God. But what do we do during the summer? Our disciple lives never clock out! Why should we clock out during the summer?

1 Kings 19

Fear kicked in, Elijah forgot how to rely on God, and trust in his timing, plans, and power.

How do you what your faith to be strengthened during the summer?

What ways do you know your faith will be tested during the summer?

What else do you see in these two comparisons of Elijah?

We will always have good days and bad days. How will we respond?

Elijah messed up, but he didn't allow that mistake to define him. He reentered on God, and continued todo great things and be used by God.

God has patience with Elijah, and allows him to come back.

How will you let God use you this summer?

Will you fight him?

How will you respond, with faith and humility, or let your fear and insecurity?

Hezekiah

2 Kings 18: 5-7

King Hezekiah of Judah stood against the corrupted actions of his predecessors and the people from Judah, and furthermore faced Sennacherib, king of Assyria. He trusted God and was recognized among the rest, like David.

In your daily life, are you able to trust in God with the same boldness as Hezekiah did?

When tribulation comes, do you rely on your own abilities and strength, or do you seek God and allow Him to take control of the situation? If so, how?

2 Kings 18: 28-33

The Assyrian field commander spoke to the people of Jerusalem to discourage them from following King Hezekiah, who trusted that GOD would deliver them from Assyria. He laid out an attractive proposal to the people of Judah to make them surrender to the Assyrian king.

Do you keep your faith and trust in God, even when everyone surrounding you might have lost their hope over a specific issue?

Have you found yourself in a situation where the devil tries to deceive your heart and mind to make you believe things of the world are better than those of God? (If so, how do you respond to these situations and what can you do stay faithful and close to God?)

2 Kings 19:14-19

Is your prayer life bold? Do you still believe God can work miracles?

Is God pleased with your prayer life today?

Character Counts: Jezebel

1 Kings 16:29- 33; 17:1-7:

- Jezebel was born as a daughter of the Ethbaal king of the Sidonia's, who worshiped Baal. Baal is god of weather, rain, and fertility; How Baal in which they are worshiped by sacrificing their children to the god. Good chance that Jezebel didn't believe in god or could have known that God was the one and only true god. She influenced her husband King Ahab to worship what she thought was right at the time therefore an altar and temple of Baal as well as a Asherah pole. This provoked God. As a result, God decided to let a severe draught come to the land for 3 years.

- Questions:

So, if you had times lately with having a lot of things going your way, had believed a specific form of living to be good, believed that a specific concept was true, not being told that your wrong or doing a certain thing that has worked for you what do when all of this stops happening?

1. How would you respond to this happening??

a. Would you blame circumstances other people, or God himself??

b. Would you just accept as I'm Job this is my suffering for doing no wrong or would you double check the scriptures to see if you messed up in some way??

c. Would ask God for guidance for what is going on?

d. Would you have humility and start repenting immediately or would you work to get things back the way you had it by any means??

1 Kings 19:1-3 - Jezebel's leadership brought fear to those under her. Does my ministry fear me in this way? Can they talk to me? Are they afraid of my outbursts?

1 Kings 18:4-19 - Jezebel supported false prophets and prophesy, and everyone knew. What actions do I support? People watch me, what do they see? What do I show people? What do people see I condone?

1 Kings 21:5-25 - Jezebel completely ignored God in this situation. She ignored that fact and failed to tell others about it as well. When do I tend to forget my God? When in frustrate or covetous like Jezebel? What has worked for me in the last changing that? What are some things you can point out in her character that you see in your own?

-Jezebel was a woman of conviction and zeal. She was willing to do whatever it took to get what she wanted and she was also willing to do the same for the people she cared about. Even though she had zeal, it was misplaced. As leaders, it is sometimes easy to have misplaced zeal. So, we need to ask ourselves:

Where is, our zeal coming from? Is our heart fully focused on God? And if it's not then what are the steps you need to take to refocus your heart on The Lord?

2 Kings 9 - She failed to humble herself, even to the point of mocking. Her heart was so hard and she had so much time to try to repent as her husband did. In what circumstances, can it be easy to carry a hard heart, especially in leadership? What things are difficult for me to repent of and become humble before God? Who do I go to? Do people know who I am? Does Satan know who we are, does our campus ministry know who we are?

-Jezebel killed prophets, killed to steal, was labeled an idolater and practice of witchcraft amongst other things. Sin consumed her life yet at the very end she was nothing. Even today her name has a negative connotation. Jezebel was not the only woman living this overwhelmingly sinful life. Why do you think God was so patient with the way Jezebel was behaving and living? Has God been patient with the way your behaving and living?

To be, and not to be like Gideon

Judges 6: 11-16

- . How can we ourselves question God being there for us during the hard times?
- . Do you feel incapable because of your weaknesses? Does this restrict you from believing you can help save God's people? Why?
- . Do you see yourself as a "mighty warrior" the way God does? He was able to use Gideon, so what makes you think He can't use you?

Judges 6: 25-27

- . What causes you to be afraid of people (family members and those around us) when trying to do God's will?
- . Have you ever done something in secret in order to not be persecuted by non-believers?
- . How can you be bold and courageous to stand up for what you believe in no matter who is against you? Are you actually willing to take a stand?

Judges 6: 36-40

- . Gideon was aggressively humble with his prayers, are you *bold* and *specific* with your prayers to God when looking for answers? If not, what's stopping you from doing so?
- . Gideon tested his faith in God and increased it, how are you increasing your faith?

Judges 7: 1-7

- . Gideon had a lot of men to start off with, but like him, when God asks you to drop something that brings security and comfort, will you be willing to drop it?

. In what ways can you be courageous and faithful like Gideon with very little going into battle when you are on campus, at home, or anywhere else?

Judges 7: 15-17

. When God has worked in your life, do you claim it as your own or do you immediately give the glory to God?

. Are you as bold and zealous as Gideon when it comes to doing the work of God?

Judges 8: 1-3

. When the Ephraimites heard about Gideon's accomplishments, how did they respond?

. How would you have reacted if you were put in the Ephraimites' place? What about Gideon's?

. Who do you give the glory to whenever you accomplish something?

Judges 8: 22-23

. Who did Gideon want to have rule over the Israelites?

. If you were in Gideon's position, would you take the praises of people or of God?

. When have you been tempted to take the praises from people? What causes you do this?

. How are you going to guard your heart to not fall into that temptation?

Gideon, although coming from a weak background, he was used by God, did well in the eyes of the Lord for 40 years by leading His people, yet he didn't finish off right by keeping the people he was leading faithful to God. How will you be remembered?