

**The Horrific Loss of Doing What Is Right in One's Own Eyes (Judges 19:1-28) – Part 1: Rampant Immorality**

<p><sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days, when <i>there</i> was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.</p>	<p><b>1. The Certain Levite</b></p>
<p><sup>2</sup> But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months.</p>	<p><b>2. The Concubine's _____ and Return Home</b></p>
<p><sup>3</sup> Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her <i>and</i> bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.</p>	<p><b>3. The Levite _____ His Wayward Concubine</b></p>
<p><sup>4</sup> Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him <b>three</b> days. So they ate and drank and lodged there.  <sup>5</sup> Then it came to pass on the <b>fourth</b> day that they arose early in the morning, and he stood to depart; but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way."  <sup>6</sup> So they sat down, and the two of them ate and drank together. Then the young woman's father said to the man, "Please be content to stay all night, and let your heart be merry."  <sup>7</sup> And when the man stood to depart, his father-in-law urged him; so he lodged there again.  <sup>8</sup> Then he arose early in the morning on the <b>fifth</b> day to depart, but the young woman's father said, "Please refresh your heart." So they delayed until afternoon; and both of them ate.</p>	<p><b>4. The Father-in-law _____ Their Departure</b></p>
<p><sup>9</sup> And when the man stood to depart-- he and his concubine and his servant-- his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, "Look, the day is now drawing toward evening; please spend the night. See, the day is coming to an end; lodge here, that your heart may be merry. Tomorrow go your way early, so that you may get home."  <sup>10</sup> However, the man was not willing to spend that night; so he rose and departed, and came to opposite Jebus (<i>that is</i>, Jerusalem). With him were the two saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him.</p>	<p><b>5. The Levite's Party Leaves _____ in the Day</b></p>
<p><sup>11</sup> They <i>were</i> near Jebus, and the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it."  <sup>12</sup> But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners, who <i>are</i> not of the children of Israel; we will go on to Gibeah."  <sup>13</sup> So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and spend the night in Gibeah or in Ramah."  <sup>14</sup> And they passed by and went their way; and the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin.</p>	<p><b>6. The Levite Seeks _____ Lodging</b></p>
<p><sup>15</sup> They turned aside there to go in to lodge in Gibeah. And when he went in, he sat down in the open square of the city, for no one would take them into <i>his</i> house to spend the night.</p>	<p><b>7. The Levite Finds No _____ Hospitality in Gibeah</b></p>
<p><sup>16</sup> Just then an old man came in from his work in the field at evening, who also <i>was</i> from the mountains of Ephraim; he was staying in Gibeah, whereas the men of the place <i>were</i> Benjamites. <sup>17</sup> And when he raised his eyes, he saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?"  <sup>18</sup> So he said to him, "We <i>are</i> passing from Bethlehem in Judah toward the remote mountains of Ephraim; I <i>am</i> from there. I went to Bethlehem in Judah; <i>now</i> I am going to the house of the LORD. But there <i>is</i> no one who will take me into his house, <sup>19</sup> "although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man <i>who is</i> with your servant; <i>there is</i> no lack of anything."</p>	<p><b>8. The Levite Meets an Elderly Ephraimite Man</b></p>

<p><sup>20</sup> And the old man said, "Peace <i>be</i> with you! However, <i>let</i> all your needs <i>be</i> my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square."  <sup>21</sup> So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.</p>	<b>9. The Ephraimite Brings Them to His House</b>
<p><sup>22</sup> As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house <i>and</i> beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him <i>carnally!</i>"</p>	<b>10. Some Men of the City Seek to _____ the Levite</b>
<p><sup>23</sup> But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage.  <sup>24</sup> "Look, <i>here is</i> my virgin daughter and <i>the man's</i> concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"</p>	<b>11. The Ephraimite Offers the _____</b>
<p><sup>25</sup> But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought <i>her</i> out to them.</p>	<b>12. The Levite Gives Them His Concubine</b>
<p>And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.</p>	<b>13. The Concubine Is Abused All Night</b>
<p><sup>26</sup> Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.</p>	<b>14. The Concubine Falls at the Door of the House</b>
<p><sup>27</sup> When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen <i>at</i> the door of the house with her hands on the threshold.</p>	<b>15. The Levite Finds His Concubine at the Door</b>
<p><sup>28</sup> And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.</p>	<b>16. The Levite Secures Her, and Returns Home</b>

**Key Lessons:**

**1) God reveals the unavoidable downward \_\_\_\_\_ of disobedience.**

**a. Wrath of God Has Been Revealed Against Sin**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

**b. Knowledge of God Is Clearly Available to Everyone Through Creation**

<sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

**c. Failure to Acknowledge God Begins the Path Downward**

<sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**d. Replacing God with Other Gods Comes Next**

<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

**e. God Gives Them Up to Pursue Their Desires**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

**f. God Further Gives Them Up to Vile Passions**

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

**g. God Gives Them Over to a Debased Mind**

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

**2) \_\_\_\_\_ -focus is indicative of spiritual departure.**

**3) Sexual \_\_\_\_\_ is indicative of spiritual departure.**

**4) The degrading, devaluing, and abuse of \_\_\_\_\_ is a result of disobedience.**