

Timeline of Truth: The Horrific Loss of Doing What Is Right in One's Own Eyes (Judges 21:1-25) – Part 3: Rash Decisions

<p>¹ Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, "None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife."</p>	<p>1. Rash Oath #1: Our Daughters Will Not _____ Benjamites a. (All while being fine marrying Canaanites themselves...)</p>
<p>² Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly, ³ and said, "O LORD God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe <i>missing</i> in Israel?"</p>	<p>2. Wrongly Focused Grief: Result Rather than the <u>Cause</u></p>
<p>⁴ So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.</p>	<p>3. People Mix Religious Actions with _____ -made Solutions</p>
<p>⁵ The children of Israel said, "Who <i>is there</i> among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the LORD?" For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who had not come up to the LORD at Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."</p>	<p>4. Rash Oath #2: We Will _____ Those Who Did Not Respond</p>
<p>⁶ And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel today.</p>	<p>5. Wrongly Focused Grief: Result Rather than the Cause</p>
<p>⁷ "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them our daughters as wives?"</p>	<p>6. They Seek to Solve the Problem They Created a. Honor their Oath to God While Defiling God b. They Reference God While Ignoring God's Input</p>
<p>⁸ And they said, "What one <i>is there</i> from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the LORD?" And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly. ⁹ For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead <i>was</i> there.</p>	<p>7. Rash Solution #1: _____ a Village, and Retain the Virgins a. Connected to their 2nd rash oath (v. 5) b. Jabesh Gilead is identified as not responding c. No effort is made to discover why they did not respond d. NOTE: The responders did not know why they were called</p>
<p>¹⁰ So the congregation sent out there twelve thousand of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and children. ¹¹ "And this <i>is</i> the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately."</p>	<p>e. They gather an army f. They command the army to kill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in Jabesh Gilead • Including women and children • Except virgins </p>
<p>¹² So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young virgins who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.</p>	<p>g. They carry out the mass murder h. They keep 400 virgins (violates Oath #2...) i. They bring them to Shiloh (spiritual place? In Canaan??)</p>
<p>¹³ Then the whole congregation sent <i>word</i> to the children of Benjamin who <i>were</i> at the rock of Rimmon, and announced peace to them.</p>	<p>8. They notify the men of Benjamin a. Still at the rock of Rimmon b. They declare peace to them</p>
<p>¹⁴ So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them.</p>	<p>9. The 400 Virgins Are Given to the Men of Benjamin a. Having had their entire village and families murdered b. Having forcibly been given to murderous men...</p>
<p>¹⁵ And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a void in the tribes of Israel.</p>	<p>10. Wrongly Focused Grief: Result Rather than the Cause</p>
<p>¹⁶ Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?" ¹⁷ And they said, "<i>There must be</i> an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel.</p>	<p>11. They Continue to Seek to Solve the Problem They Created a. What shall we do? b. What must be. c. They reject their own sins and sinful status d. They reject the revelation of God e. They reject the power of God</p>

<p>¹⁸ "However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, `Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.'"</p>	<p>12. They Review and Affirm Their Rash Oath</p>
<p>¹⁹ Then they said, "In fact, <i>there is</i> a yearly feast of the LORD in Shiloh, which <i>is</i> north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah."</p>	<p>13. Rash Solution #2: _____ Unsuspecting Daughters a. Identify an annual feast in Shiloh for the plot</p>
<p>²⁰ Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, "Go, lie in wait in the vineyards, ²¹ "and watch; and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin. ²² "Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, `Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for <i>it is not as though</i> you have given the <i>women</i> to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.'"</p>	<p>b. They share the plan details with the men of Benjamin i. Lie in wait nearby ii. Watch and wait iii. When the daughters dance, each kidnap one iv. Return to the land of Benjamin v. We will resolve the problems that follow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When the fathers/brothers come</i> • <i>We will tell them to be kind to you</i> • <i>Because we wiped out all the women</i> • <i>You didn't violate your oath (technically)</i>
<p>²³ And the children of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.</p>	<p>14. The Men of Benjamin Do as Instructed</p>
<p>²⁴ So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance.</p>	<p>15. The Children of Israel Depart for Home Satisfied</p>
<p>²⁵ In those days <i>there was</i> no king in Israel; everyone did <i>what was</i> right in his own eyes.</p>	<p>16. The Underlying Issue for All of Judges (and Our Time)</p>

Sobering Lessons:

1. **Selective application of God's Word and selective obedience to God's Word results in disastrous consequences.**
 2. **We can become _____ making horrible decisions that have horrible results.**
 3. **We can _____ be convinced that our decisions and directions are "right."**
 4. **Being _____ of our "rightness" is no guarantee of being right.**
 5. **Our "right" can actually _____ many of God's clear commands.**
 6. **We must measure our decisions and direction _____ using God's Word. (Heb 4:12; Jer 17:9)**
 7. **If we are not doing so, we must assume that we are _____ God's rule and His Word, regardless of how we feel.**
- 2 Tim 3:1-5** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
- 2 Tim. 3:13-17** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- 2 Tim 4:1-4** I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.