

RESPECT FOR THINGS HOLY

Introduction:

1. In our study of the book of Judges, we have seen the difficulties of the nation of Israel.
 2. Numerous times, they became unfaithful to the Lord and suffered severe consequences.
 3. In order to avoid making the same mistakes they did, we need to understand the root cause of their sins.
 4. Ultimately, in spite of all they had seen and all God had done for them, the children of Israel had a lack of respect for things that are holy (Leviticus 11:45; 22:31-33).
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- I. Respect for God's Holy Word (1:21, 27-33)
 - A. In the first chapter, Israel is seen disobeying the Word of God by failing to drive out the inhabitants of the land.
 - B. This may seem like a "small" or "insignificant" sin, but it led to terrible wrongs.
 1. Impurity
 2. Intermarriage
 3. Idolatry
 - C. God's commands are holy (Rom. 1:2; 2 Tim. 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:21).
 - D. Sadly, many still do not respect God's holy word.
 1. Divorce (Matthew 19:9)
 2. Women's role (1 Timothy 2:11-12)
 3. Salvation errors (Heb. 5:8-9; Mark 16:16; etc.)
 - II. Respect for God's Holy Men (2:16-17; 6:7-10)
 - A. The judges were holy men because they were "raised up" by God to that position and for that purpose.
 - B. However, the Israelites showed them little, if any, respect.
 1. They disobeyed the judges.
 2. They would not listen to the prophets.
 - C. God still has holy men today.
 1. Elders (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Hebrews 13:17)
 2. Preachers (2 Timothy 4:1-4; Titus 1:13; 2:15; 1 Corinthians 9:16)
 3. In fact, all Christians are holy (1 Peter 2:9)!
 - D. Sadly, many still do not respect God's holy men.
 - III. Respect for God's Holy People (3:1-7)
 - A. The Israelites failed to respect their own purity as God's holy people.
 - B. Sadly, many in the church do not respect their brethren as God's holy people.
 1. Love (John 13:34-35; 15:12; Romans 12:10; 1 Thes. 4:9; 1 Jn. 4:11)
 2. Unity (Ephesians 4:1-6; John 17:20-23; 1 Cor. 1:10; 12:12)
 3. Purity (Ephesians 5:25-27; 2 Cor. 11:2; Revelation 21:27)
 - IV. Respect for God's Holy Plan (4:8-9)
 - A. The story of Deborah demonstrates the Israelites' rejection of God's order.
 - B. Sadly, many continue to disrespect God's perfect, holy plan.
 1. In the home
 2. In the church
 3. In salvation

Judges 2:16-17

- V. Respect for God's Holy Power (7:1-3)
- A. When it was time to go to battle, 22,000 men of Israel were "fearful and afraid."
 - B. They trusted in themselves and doubted God's power.
 - C. Sadly, many still have no respect for the power of God.
 - 1. In the Gospel (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:7)
 - 2. In forgiveness (Matthew 9:6; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 1:9)
 - 3. In temptation and trial (Matthew 6:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Eph. 6:10)
 - 4. In Judgment (Luke 12:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)
- VI. Respect for God's Holy Authority (9:1-6)
- A. Abimelech was so rebellious that he murdered his brethren and made himself a judge of Israel (cf. Matthew 21:23).
 - B. Sadly, too many still have just as little respect for the authority of God.
 - 1. Where is the authority for instrumental music in NT worship?
 - 2. Where is the authority to partake of the Lord's Supper on Thursday?
 - 3. Where is the authority for a choir or drama group?
 - 4. Where is the authority for "Children's Church"?
 - 5. Where is the authority for a missionary or benevolence society?
- VII. Respect for God's Holy Morality (14:1-3; 16:1; 19:22-30)
- A. Samson is just one example of the immorality of the Israelites.
 - B. The men of Gibeah demonstrate just how far a people can fall when they disrespect God's standard.
 - C. Sadly, many still rebel against God's holy standard of morality.
- VIII. Respect for God's Holy Worship (17:1-13)
- A. Micah rejected God's pattern and established his own system of worship.
 - B. God was displeased with Him and with all who practice vain worship (cf. Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7).
 - C. Sadly, many still have no respect for God's pattern for holy worship.
 - 1. Sing (Ephesians 5:19)
 - 2. Pray (1 Timothy 2:8)
 - 3. Preach (Acts 2:42; 20:7)
 - 4. Give (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
 - 5. Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7)

Conclusion: Judges 21:25

- 1. We must not do what is "right in our own eyes."
- 2. Instead, we must respect things that are holy.
- 3. God's Word must be our standard in all that we say and do (Colossians 3:17).
- 4. Are you obedient to the Holy Scriptures?