

Book of Judges

1. Judges 2:16-23 (Only Worship God)

1) Observation: Who are the people that God raised to deliver Israel from the hands of the plunderers?

2) Interpretation: How did the people break their "covenant" with God when the judges died?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When the Israelites served other gods and suffered great distress from the plunderers, God took pity on them and sent judges to save them. Have you ever valued anything in the world more than God and experienced difficulties as a result? How did God guide you during that time? Did God send someone to guide you?

3.2(God Meeting Us): How has your life changed after experiencing God's salvation and living under His protection?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Despite receiving God's grace and salvation, it is easy for us to be drawn away by the world and live according to its desires. What is it about the world's temptations that entice us so much? And what is the way for us to overcome those temptations?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The judges who were sent to save the people in the midst of suffering due to sin had to fight against the plunderers. God wants to send you like a judge to save someone. What do you need for this? What do you need to ask God for?

4) Real Life Today: How can you help your community regain a heart of worship solely for God?

2. Judges 3:1-11 (Why God Gives Us Temptations)

1) Observation: What was the test that the Lord wanted to put the Israelite people through?

2) Interpretation: Why does God subject His people to such difficult tests?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): As believers, we find ourselves amid a world full of challenges. Therefore, the daily life of a saint is filled with continuous spiritual battles. What is the recent or potential spiritual challenge or fight that you are facing?

3.2(God Meeting Us): God led Israel to engage in wars with the surrounding nations to make them repent for their wrongdoing of forgetting God and worshiping idols and to guide them back to God. In what areas of your life do you need repentance? What kind of transformation do you desire to experience through repentance? In which areas do you want God to bring peace and joy?

3.3(God Refinding Us): God allows tests for His people, the believers. Specifically, through these tests, He desires His people to leave behind the polluted world and regain their lost connection with God, receiving His divine governance. What grace do you need as you firmly establish your identity as God's people and seek to be a warrior of faith opposing the world? What spiritual growth and abilities do you desire to develop?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Othniel, a judge, grew up in the household of Caleb, an excellent person of faith. And by the calling of the Lord, he fought against the king of Mesopotamia. Through his unwavering faith and courage, God led him to victory in the war. What is the task that the Lord is entrusting to you today? According to the conscience of faith, what should you do?

4) Real Life Today: What are the tests that the community of faith to which I belong is currently facing or could potentially face? What small actions can I take to address this situation?

3. Judges 3:11-17, 20-30 (The Boundaries to Cultivate Faithful, Spiritual Life)

1) Observation: For how many years did the Israelites have to be ruled by King Eglon of Moab when they turned away from the Lord and served Baal and Asherah, committing evil deeds?

2) Interpretation: Why did Israel occupy the ford of the Jordan River when they fought against the Moabite army?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When Ehud met King Eglon of Moab, the king displayed foolishness by dismissing his attendants and letting his guard down. Originally, he was a person who poorly managed his life and had serious health issues (verses 17, 22). His lack of self-control and preparedness were his fatal flaws. God targeted this aspect and raised Ehud as a judge to deliver Israel. When you were groaning in sin, how did the Lord approach you? What plans did He have to help you?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Through the power of the Lord, Ehud, and Israel emerged victorious in battle and enjoyed 80 years of peace thereafter. It was a precious peace they gained beyond the oppression of Moab for the past 18 years. The contrast between before and after the war was drastic, like night and day. After God saved you, what was the greatest gift you received? Specifically, what changes occurred in your heart and soul?

3.3(God Refinding Us): When we become careless and let our boundaries weaken, it can lead to great disasters. Israel suffered greatly when the spiritual boundaries of worshiping God crumbled, and their lives themselves became desolate. What difficulties do you encounter when the spiritual boundaries of serving God in your life are compromised?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Israel occupied the dock of the Jordan River, preventing any Moabite from crossing and exterminating them. Through this, they issued a warning to Moab and

reclaimed their boundaries. To reclaim the boundaries that have been compromised in your life, what is the task that the Lord is urging you to do right now?

4) Real Life Today: What are the boundaries that need to be maintained within and outside the community you belong to? Create a list and put it into practice.

4. Judges 4:1-10, 15-23 (The Brave Women)

1) Observation: Among the people who delivered Israel from the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who are the two prominent women?

2) Interpretation: In this passage, many characters are mentioned, and they assume various roles and work hard. What is the reason why God chooses and uses these diverse individuals?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When Israel groaned in suffering under the oppression of Canaan, God unexpectedly raised a woman as a judge! It was incomprehensible to have a woman as a leader during a time of war, especially in an era with severe gender discrimination. However, Israel ultimately experienced the joy of victory. Have there been times in your life when, during spiritual difficulties, God used unexpected people to help you? What was that experience like?

3.2(God Meeting Us): God entrusts each of the characters in the passage with challenging tasks as He approaches them. He assigns Deborah as the leader who leads all of Israel during the war, Barak as the seasoned warrior who fights on the battlefield, and Jael as the one who kills the enemy commander and strikes the final blow in the war. God assigns them tasks that require great courage and enables them to experience the triumph of faith. Have you had an experience in your life where God entrusted you with a "difficult" task, through which you experienced His power and provision? What was that task?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Deborah entrusted the actual command of the war to General Barak, and Barak respects the spiritual leadership of the prophetess Deborah. He acknowledges their shortcomings and limitations and, above all, moves in obedience to God's commands. In your faith journey, whom does God instruct you to respect? Through that respect and delegation, in what ways will you be complemented and grow? What is the joy of spiritual victory achieved through obedience?

3.4(God Inspiring US): In every situation, in any environment, God says to us, "You can do it." In your current life situation, here and now, what is the task, your calling, that God will accomplish?

4) Real Life Today: How is the division of roles within the community you belong to? Are there any limitations and difficulties that each part possesses? Let's explore together the best ways to complement them.

5. Judges 6:11-24 (Truthful Pride)

1) Observation: When Gideon was secretly threshing wheat in a winepress to hide from the Midianites, where and how was the angel of the Lord watching over him?

2) Interpretation: What does the phrase "The Lord is Peace" (Jehovah Shalom) mean?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When Israel sinned and endured seven years of persecution by the Midianites, God came to Gideon. He was in a state of secretly threshing wheat in a winepress out of fear of the Midianites at night. Have you ever experienced a situation in your life where you were in such a challenging situation that others would find terrifying? How did the light of the Lord come and remain with you during that time?

3.2(God Meeting Us): When Gideon questioned God's call by saying, "How can I?" (verse 15), and expressed his household, circumstances, and insignificance, God promised, "I will certainly be with you." Despite Gideon's feelings of inadequacy, lack, and low self-esteem, God declared that Gideon would be the one through whom God's power would manifest. Thus, Gideon realized that the Lord was the One who desired to be with him and pour out extraordinary abilities that he did not know. Have you had an experience of realizing God's love in such a way? Please share.

3.3(God Refinding Us): Gideon begins with the question, "If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to Israel?" and presents various arguments to avoid God's command to save Israel. Despite Gideon's evasive reactions, God remains patient, and enduring, and continues to provide signs according to Gideon's requests. What are the reasons why we doubt even while living a life of faith? What growth do you need to have a firm conviction in God, who is with us and leads us to victory?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Gideon prepares a meal as an offering to the angel of the Lord, and through the reaction of God accepting the offering by consuming it with fire, his calling is affirmed. God assures Gideon, saying, "You will not die," and persuades him to fulfill the task. In what area is God calling you to accomplish His will? And what is your current response?

4) Real Life Today: What is the task that you can start right here, right now to help your faith community overcome difficulties?

6. Judges 6:25-32 (Eliminate Enemies in Your Own Mind First)

1) Observation: When did Gideon destroy the idols?

2) Interpretation: What is the meaning of the name "Jerubbaal"?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): God commanded Gideon, who was preparing for war, to offer a sacrifice of a bull and to burn the idols in his household. This was because Israel's worship had crumbled, and the idols had taken the place of God. Have you encountered situations in your spiritual life where it was difficult to worship only the Lord? Have other idols hindered your faith journey? How did the Lord approach you during those times?

3.2(God Meeting Us): To engage in war, there is an urgent need for weapons and resources for battle and military recruitment. However, God commands Gideon to first remove the idols. This reveals God's desire for inner purification and training rather than external factors. In your spiritual warfare, what attitude does the Lord desire from you and what actions should you take?

3.3(God Refinding Us): When Gideon obeyed God's command to destroy the idols, he did it in secret, fearing the people, under the cover of night. There was still fear of people overpowering the fear of God. In your journey of faith, how do people influence you? Are they sometimes exalted above God?

3.4(God Inspiring US): When Gideon followed God's command to destroy the idols, something remarkable happened. Instead of the idol's creator, Gideon's father, threatening him, he defended Gideon and prevented harm. It was a remarkable transformation. When you bear the tasks entrusted by the Lord, share the remarkable transformations and joys you have experienced.

4) Real Life Today: Gideon's household was considered a place where idols were made and kept. God knew the situation and entrusted Gideon with the mission to destroy the idols first. What is the priority task you need to take for your faith community to stand firm? What role would you like your household to fulfill within that community? Please share.

7. Judges 7:1-15 (The Rules of War)

1) Observation: How many soldiers did Gideon originally lead, and how many soldiers did God desire?

2) Interpretation: The Midianite soldiers had a dream of rolling barley loaves, and they feared God. What did they believe the barley loaves symbolized?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): By God's command, Gideon and the Israelites went to fight against the Midianites and saw that the enemies were "as numerous as locusts, and their camels were too many to count, like the sand on the seashore." Have you ever experienced a surprising situation where the power of the world and the challenges seemed overwhelming and frightening as you tried to obey God's call?

3.2(God Meeting Us): In the face of such a massive number of enemies and their weaponry, the Lord instructed Gideon to reduce the number of Israelite soldiers to just 300. It was truly an

unbelievable command. Have you ever had a similar experience where God approached you in the midst of difficulties and made seemingly incomprehensible demands? What did you think about who God was during that time?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The Lord commanded to reduce the Israelite army to 300. The reason was, "Israel might claim glory for themselves against me, saying, 'My own strength has delivered me.'" When you engage in spiritual warfare, the one you must absolutely rely on is God. What do you need to let go of in order to rely on the God who is within you, rather than external powers and the majority of people?

3.4(God Inspiring US): God desires someone who may be insignificant and small but can be used in His hands. Where is the place in your life where your weakness can become the very scene where God works? Share and discuss it.

4) Real Life Today: God showed Gideon the way to victory in battle beforehand. He revealed that the Midianites were afraid of the God of Israel, as they spoke about a dream. God desires us to have confidence and victory first in our inner spiritual battles. What can you do today to make the inner world of your faith community healthier?

8. Judges 11:1-8, 29-40 (The Crisis that Can Be Prevented By Faith)

1) Observation: Why was Jephthah marginalized and living in exclusion by his family?

2) Interpretation: It is said that what Jephthah vowed to the Lord could not be undone. Why is that?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Jephthah was a person who experienced marginalization and exclusion from his family since birth. However, when Israel was in crisis, God made people rely on him. Have there been times in your life when you were ignored or rejected by people, but God esteemed you and came to you?

3.2(God Meeting Us): By using Jephthah, God saved Israel, and he became a person praised by the people. From being an outcast, Jephthah was recognized as a leader of Israel, chosen by God. Our identity changes when we encounter God. A person who was despised by the world can become someone who leads people spiritually. Share your experience of meeting God and being transformed, leading people spiritually.

3.3(God Refinding Us): Jephthah made a regrettable mistake due to his anxious heart when going to war. He made a vow to sacrifice the first person who comes out of his house to welcome him if he returns victorious. Unexpectedly, it turned out to be his daughter who came out to greet him, and he had to sacrifice her. His determination to win the war was admirable, but he made a reckless promise without considering the position of his beloved daughter. Have you also hastily made words and actions that caused unexpected difficulties for the people

around you, instead of relying on God's grace, His omnipotent power, and waiting for His guidance?

3.4(God Inspiring US): God wants to use us, but He desires that we trust His power and quietly follow His guidance. In what area of your life today do you need to wait for God's guidance?

4) Real Life Today: Who is someone in your community who has faced difficulties due to your mistakes? How would you like to approach them and restore the damaged relationship?

9. Judges 16:4-6 (The Direction of Love)

1) Observation: In what way was Samson's strength weakened and how could Delilah hand him over to the Philistines?

2) Interpretation: What does the term "Nazirite" mean?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Samson falls into the temptation of Delilah and becomes intoxicated with a wrongful love. Have you also been ensnared by the sweet voice of the world, forgetting the Lord and following the ways of the world, experiencing being exploited by the world? Let's discuss it.

3.2(God Meeting Us): Even though Samson is weakened and captured due to temptation, the Lord does not abandon him and allows his hair to grow again. And the Lord is with him, restoring his strength. When you were trapped in sin and lamenting, how did the Lord come to you and restore you?

3.3(God Refinding Us): We are people belonging to the Lord and His workers, yet we are easily tempted by the world. What are the temptations of the world that you easily fall into? What do you need to do to overcome those temptations?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Foolish Samson redirects his focus towards the Lord and fulfills his final mission. He prays to the Lord in the temple of the Philistines, asking for strength, and then he kills numerous enemies and fulfills his destiny. When you turn away from the temptations of the world and redirect your focus towards God, what new mission is given to you?

4) Real Life Today: Are there believers in the current faith community who are trapped in the temptations of the world? How can you help them to change their direction towards God?

10. Judges 17:1-13 (The Wrongdoing of Self-Centered Faith)

1) Observation: In the middle of the passage, how much money did Micah steal?

2) Interpretation: When Micah realizes that the person visiting his house is a Levite, he asks him to become his personal priest. What is the relationship between the Levite clan and the role of a priest?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Micah's mother cursed someone who stole a significant amount of silver from her, amounting to one thousand one hundred shekels. But when she discovers that the culprit is her own son and he promises to return the money to her, she changes her mind and cancels the curse. Similarly, although we may objectively criticize and question the world around us, we are prone to trying to conceal our own wrongdoings when they relate to ourselves. Before meeting the Lord, what was your perception of the flawed world? And how did you view yourself in relation to it?

3.2(God Meeting Us): After becoming wealthy, Micah employs the Levite as a priest who would offer worship and blessings for his family. However, Micah's religious acts were driven by self-interest (syncretistic faith), and worshiping God became secondary. Verse 6 of the passage explains the cause of such behavior: "In those days, Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." Yes, Israel lacked a king who would lead and guide the people in truth and righteousness. When you accepted Christ as your Lord, He became the King who governs your life. How has the Lord transformed your life, particularly in the area of worship?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Micah, his mother, and the hired priest are all individuals whose judgment has been clouded by materialism, and their faulty choices and decisions stem from self-centered criteria. Is there a primary value system that replaces the Lord in your heart? What will bring greater delight to the Lord when you let go of something?

3.4(God Inspiring US): As the Levite also prioritizes material possessions, he readily accepts the role of a priest as Micah entrusts it to him. What mission has been given to you to expand the kingdom of God? Who has entrusted you with it? What motivates you to fulfill that mission?

4) Real Life Today: Are there still remnants of worldly standards or values within the faith community? What can you practice today to let go of them?

11. Judges 19:1-3, 15-30 (Life without Spiritual Priorities)

1) Observation: What tribe's land was the town of Gibeah, where the Levite stayed overnight on his way to retrieve his concubine?

2) Interpretation: Why did the Levite send pieces of his concubine's body to all the regions of Israel?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Within the passage, we encounter a story of a Levite who, despite being called to live a holy life for God's work, acquires a concubine. On their way back home, they

encounter trouble in Gibeah, where the concubine is handed over to wicked men and subjected to violence. This tragic incident leads to her death and the disarray of the entire nation of Israel. What was your life like before the Lord sought you? Were there any confusing or tumultuous aspects?

3.2(God Meeting Us): When we encounter the Lord, external conditions of our lives may not change easily. However, the Lord transforms our inner world and gives us the strength to overcome every situation. Please share one perplexing situation that was resolved through encountering the Lord and experiencing His grace.

3.3(God Refinding Us): The Levite sought a concubine for his own benefit and did not hesitate to give her away when he felt safe. This action displayed the behavior of a person who is self-centered, lacking principles and ethics in order to preserve their own comfort. It was an ungodly act. As a believer, what principles would you establish to live a holy life, where you prioritize not your own interests but the hope of the Lord?

3.4(God Inspiring US): God desires to establish and uphold spiritual order in our lives. What does the expected manifestation of spiritual order look like in your life?

4) Real Life Today: To ensure that your community does not fall into confusion, what small action can you take today to establish the necessary spiritual order?