

Sermon Notes – July 10, 2016

Review

- ⇒ The book of Judges covers about ____ years of Israel's ancient history, a period of time much like our own, marked by _____ and moral _____.
- ⇒ Judges is a story of the true trajectory of mankind apart from God. When people do what is _____, life gets very messy, very quickly.
- ⇒ Last week Pastor Tyler reminded us that Judges has a double _____ and a double _____. Today's text is the final — and utterly devastating—conclusion to a dark and very contemporary story.

Today's Text: Judges 19:1-21:25

Today's text is hard to read. Years of moral decline have taken their toll, bringing the nation to a place where behavior that was once shocking is now normal — until one terrible day that shakes even a morally desensitized nation. This dramatic conclusion underscores the main point: *"This is what it looks like when a nation ignores God and people do whatever they want."*

"Sin When It is Fully Grown Brings Forth Death"

(19:1-30; James 1:15)

- ⇒ 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, and 21:25 are like a drumline reaching a crescendo! It's like a message WRITTEN IN ALL CAPS.
- ⇒ This chapter is supposed to be _____. It is supposed to be a call to action, to create moral outrage, to cross the line.
- ⇒ Do you see the strong & awful irony in 19:23-24? Who defines what is "disgraceful"?
- ⇒ Now...at long last(!)...we find a nation expressing...

Judges 19:1-21-25
What Happens When NOTHING is Wrong
Pastor Jay Mosser

What Happens When NOTHING is Wrong
Judges 19:1-21-25
Pastor Jay Mosser

Moral Outrage with No Philosophical Foundation

(20:1-21-25)

- ⇒ Back in 1983 President Ronald Reagan used moral language to describe the Soviet Union ("_____")
- ⇒ Fast forward to the fallout of 9/11/2001, many struggled to find appropriate moral language to describe the murder of 3,000 people. Was it **actually** wrong, or just "_____?"
- ⇒ In today's text we find a nation with no moral language or foundations deeply aware that something is actually wrong, though they would have been unable to say why.
- ⇒ The book closes with anguish & tears (20:23, 26; 21:2) and a haunting question:

"Why has this happened...?"

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ The book of Judges vividly illustrates several core Bible doctrines:
 - The human heart is sinful
 - This world is a broken place
 - Human deliverers will always fall short
 - We need a greater Deliverer from our sinfulness
- ⇒ Does the book of Judges prompt profound sadness at the fallen state of our world? (It should!) Does the book of Judges awaken a longing for a great Day of Deliverance by a Great Deliverer? (It should!).

Next Sunday: July 17, 2016

"In the Darkness, LIGHT!"

(Ruth)

Pastor Jay Mosser