



# SMALL GROUP STUDY

## From Compromise to Chaos

The book of Judges teaches us that with the absence of authority comes the presence of anarchy. Every man does what is right in his own eyes. For about 350 years God places judges (12 men, 1 woman) throughout Israel to rule and deliver the children of Israel. The children of Israel have utterly turned away from God and they continue to be stuck in their cycle of sin; rebellion, retribution, repentance, and restoration. In this second half of Judges we find Jephthah, and Samson -- two of the judges God has anointed. We also find in the last three chapters stories that read like a very strange broadcast.

## Judge Jephthah

Jephthah begins wisely. He's in communication with God. As was the custom of that day he makes a vow to God to offer a sacrifice of the first thing that comes out of his house to meet him. God indeed gives him victory over the people of Ammon. Sadly, it is his only daughter who comes out to meet him.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- Do you think that Jephthah really offered his daughter as a burnt sacrifice? Why or why not?
- Have you ever made vow to God? If so, have you kept it?

## Judge Samson

Samson was a man chosen by God with a supernatural anointing who becomes a man of the flesh. He was a nazarene man gifted with great strength, but he had low morals -- morally he was a wimp. God used him, but he could have been so much more. He had natural advantages and spiritual privileges. One of the main lessons we learn from Samson's life is that sin has the power to enslave.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- What was the secret of Samson's strength?
- What are some scriptures in the Bible that can help you when you are tempted? (hint: 1 Corinthians 10:13)
- How is temptation like the resonance of a piano? And, what can you do to stop that resonance?

## Broadcast

When everyone does what is right in their own eyes there is no moral consensus in the land. These last few chapters of Judges read like a broadcast that doesn't make any sense. They sum up what happens to a nation that is bent on their own desires. There are three episodes that show us how bad it was during that time. The idolatry of a single family (Micha); the idolatry of a whole tribe (Dan); and the idolatry of an entire nation and their reaction to the tribe of Dan

### *Discussion Questions:*

- Which tribe was almost completely destroyed? Why and by whom?
- Examine your heart: are there areas in your life that you are following your own will and not the Lord's?
- What can you do today and every day to follow God's will for you?