

Judges 17-18

It is great to be here with you tonight.

Please turn in your Bibles to Judges, we will be in chapters 17-18 tonight.

Let us pray before we get into it.

So last week we ended the chronological portion of the Book of Judges.

We looked at the final Judge, Samson, and like many of his predecessors, he started out very well, but ended his career in tragedy.

Now the final chapters of this book are an appendix or added insight to the condition of Israel during this time period.

The writer will now take us back to perhaps the earlier part of the era of the Judges.

And we will get two very unfortunate stories.

The first story we will look at this week, and it will deal with the religious corruption of this era.

Next time we will finish out our study of Judges with chapters 19-21 and the second part that deals the nation's moral corruption.

Both stories will give us the fate of two tribes within the nation of Israel, the first portion will deal with the Tribe of Dan, and the second will deal with Benjamin.

Both stories have to do with a Levite and both are actually connected to Bethlehem.

Now as we have seen in our study thus far, the Book of Judges is not the most encouraging books for believers today.

However, I believe it is one of the most relevant books in the Bible to our modern form of Christianity.

This Book is a booming warning system to the church today.

It warns us against humanism, and Unitarian Universalism which has corrupted the True Church today.

This liberal belief that all beliefs are equal, and that Christianity is just one way of many ways.

The belief that everything is relative, there are no absolutes.

These false ideas have crept into the Church, and these false creeds have created an environment that is very similar to the times of the Judges.

Tonight we will see the downward spiral that complacency and an apathetic religion can create.

This nation that once battled valiantly, and triumphantly conquered Canaan all for the glory of their God, is now falling apart in their homes, in their government, and as a nation.

God gave Israel so many warnings, He even has intervene so many times, and yet the people of God failed to learn their lesson.

They were guaranteed victory and blessing if they wholly committing themselves to their God.

So let's look now at the pathetic place this story starts with...

Micah's Idolatry

17:1 Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. 2 And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears — here is the silver with me; I took it."

And his mother said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, my son!" 3 So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the Lord for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you." 4 Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah.

5 The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his

sons, who became his priest. 6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Now, if you are confused, you are reading this correctly.

Apostasy and false worship is confusing.

The story starts with a man from Ephraim, named Micah.

Which is a wonderful name, it means, “Who is like the Lord.”

But, in Micah from Ephraim’s case, ironically he was not a true representative of the Lord.

He is first known, as a thief here.

Who stole from his own mother, eleven hundred shekels of silver.

Now that is a huge amount of silver, so we can gather that Micah’s family was wealthy.

Micah confesses to his mother, he was the one who stole her missing silver, he also explains that he heard her place a curse on the person who stole it.

So we see Micah the thief was also a very superstitious man.

So he brought back the money to his mother.

Now, his mother hears this confession, and she immediately takes back the curse, and turns it into a blessing.

“May you the thief be blessed by the Lord.”

Momma refuses to see her son in a negative light, and she rejoices that her son is a thief, because at least he is an honest thief.

And she tries to protect her son from the curse by giving him a blessing.

This mother never condemned her son.

But we see, the apple does not fall to far from the tree.

Understand, bad parenting will produce bad apples.

She declares in verse 3, “I wholly dedicate the silver from my hand to the Lord for my son.”

Now, that is a wonderful offering, that would entail her to travel from the mountains of Ephraim to Shiloh, where the tabernacle sat, and she could give her offering to the Lord there.

But we see, she is lazy in her worship, why make that kind of sacrifice to the Lord, and keep her word to the Lord, if in her day you could make religion whatever we felt like.

So she decides to make into a molded image.

This happens still today, someone will come to me, “please pray that God will have my house sold, or I am

waiting for this money to come through, please pray it comes through soon.”

“I am going to tithe of the profits, I promise.”

And as soon as God answers their prayer, they are gone, not that they owed the money to men or the church, but that is what they promised the Lord.

But when that money is in their hand, they forsake their commitment to God.

Some use a religious excuse, “Oh, I meant I would tithe to the ministry in my home, or some other molded image of religion.”

This woman, steals from the Lord, and turns the silver into something she can still tangibly have, and control, and she calls it religion.

Now, it is interesting, because even when she goes to make this religious idol, she decides the 1100 she promised was a little too much, and she only gives 200 shekels to the god being created.

You see, when you get to make up your own religion, this is how it goes.

You change your mind, and its okay, because as we often hear today, “God loves me for who I am.”

And our commitment to Him is predicated on the emotions I am feeling that day, instead of truth.

What happened to the other nine hundred she promised to the Lord?

And today, it is not a scandal against the church, when people don't keep their Word, it is not an offense to the ministry, it is stealing from the Lord.

It is simply better not to make any rash commitments to the Lord.

So we see here the kind of household Micah comes from.

It is a quasi-religion, this mother has no real values to pass down to her son.

This is the sad dilemma of our day as well.

There are religious overtones in the home, talk about God even, but there is very little fruit from the parent's lives, because their example is quasi-religious and not biblically true.

If you are trying to teach your kids to use good language, yet you cuss, they will swear.

If you are telling your teenage son not to smoke, yet you smoke, guess what, they will smoke.

If you tell them not to watch filthy things on the TV, and yet you do, they will follow your example.

And here in our text, this mother, instead of letting her son feel the ramifications of his wrong, she protects him, and I imagine this is a picture of Micah's whole childhood.

Momma never getting the spoon out, “Oh, my boy is innocent, and she just protected him from any kind of discipline or ramifications.”

And here now, that he is older, she is now leading him into idolatry.

They make a molded image, breaking the commandments of God, verse 5 tells us it was added to their household shrine.

There were even other elements of Israel’s religion, with an Ephod and priest.

But all of it was spiritual anarchy toward God’s Word.

There was to be one central place of worship, and God had set apart the Levites for the priesthood, and this man is combining Cannanitish religion with the Name of Yahweh.

But we see why in verse 6, in the summery statement, in those days, there was no king, and remember God was supposed to be their ruler.

In fact when they demand a king from the prophet Samuel, God will reply **1 Sam 8:7 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.**

But here in Judges, we read, there was no king, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

And this is the religion of our day.

When the Word of God confronts someones life, it is quickly deflected off their conscious by the great argument, "I don't believe that."

And that statement today has more authority and is the foundation of today's philosophies.

It is a faith founded on emotion and feeling, and if truth conflicts with the way I feel, well, the tingles on the back of their head, are given more weight than God's eternal Word.

And here Micah opens up our story breaking the 10th commandment by coveting his mother's silver.

He broke the 8th commandment, by stealing.

It is easy to think he lied about it all until he heard the curse go forth from momma's mouth.

So he broke the 9th by lying about it.

He stole from his momma, and that breaks the 5th commandment, and dishonors his parents.

Prov. 30:8-9 links theft to profaning God's Name...

8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me;

Give me neither poverty nor riches —

Feed me with the food allotted to me;

9 Lest I be full and deny You,

And say, "Who is the Lord?"

Or lest I be poor and steal,

And profane the name of my God.

So he broke the third commandment as well.

Then he breaks the first and second commandments by worshipping a false god, and setting up an image of a false god.

Micah broke 7 of the 10 commandments, and did not feel one bit of remorse or guilt from any of it.

He has also set up his son as a non-Levite priest.

All on the authority of, “well, that is just what I believe.”

Mind you, Shiloh and God’s Holy Tabernacle is not too far from his home, but he liked his little religion that he has there in the hills of Ephraim.

This had nothing to do with the unavailability of God’s House, it has everything to do with Micah’s refusal to follow God’s Word.

Micah is using God’s Name mixed into his own religion.

This should be a warning to us today, to remain committed to the Word of God.

Today the 21st century philosophies have been molded into Christianity.

And it has had catastrophic consequences.

I read an article this week that talked of a woman minister in the United church of Canada.

Now, Gretta Vosper, has become an atheist, and the church continues to allow her to minister. Christian Today Feb. 2, 2019

For 6 years now, she has continued to pastor a Christian Church as an atheist.

She does not even believe in Christ.

But because the philosophies of the day being blended in with Christianity, it is not that big of a deal.

She declares everything she teaches is consistent with her theological training she received.

That kind of speaks to the state of Christian higher education today.

She said in the article, it would be betrayal by her denomination if they fired her.

So an Atheist comfortably and unopposed still can pastor a Christian church today.

We live in a day, when everyone does what is right in their own eyes.

But you see once the church starts making these kinds of compromises, one perversion, usually sets the stage for more perversion and diversions from truth.

And we will see this happens now in our text...

7 Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there. 8 The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to stay wherever he could find a

place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed. 9 And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?"

So he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay."

10 Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance."

So the Levite went in. 11 Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him. 12 So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah. 13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!"

Are you confused? Well you should be, false religion is confusing.

We see a young ambitious Levite now in Bethlehem.

I call him ambitious, because he lives in Bethlehem.

This was not a city designated for the Levites. In Numbers 35 and Joshua 21 there are certain cities commanded of God where the priests and Levites would dwell, and Bethlehem is not listed.

Now this man was probably there because the people were not supporting the tabernacle and its ministry with their tithes and offerings as God instructed them to do.

So, why would this priest live in one of the Levitical cities if he was going to starve?

Warren Wiersbe says, “When God’s people grow indifferent to spiritual things, one of the first evidences of their apathy is a decline in their giving to the work of the Lord; as a result everybody suffers.”

Now, this Levite, instead of seeking God, he set out on his own, to find secular means to live by.

He abandoned his calling, and instead of working to lead the people back to their God, he chose instead to look for greener pastures.

He probably thought, “I am one man, what can God do with one man.”

But God’s Word speaks over and over again, to God only needing one man to do a work of revival.

More are good, but God only needs one man.

But this priest is not the man, he sets out to find something better for himself.

He had no appreciation for his noble calling as a Levite, a servant set apart to God’s Work.

No, he is an opportunist.

His wondering brought him to the mountains of Ephraim, where he stayed with Micah.

Micah finds out he is a Levite, and this excites Micah, this will now complete his mixed up and confused religion.

He hires his son as the priest, and he offers the Levite a very good wage, 10 shekels and a shirt, a roof over his head, and food in his belly.

Oh and verse 11 tells us how the Levite was content to dwell there, and they became family!

So he became a priest, consecrated by Micah, the founder of this false religion.

Now, in Israel, only those from Aaron's sons were to be called priests, this Levite was to assist them.

But who could pass up such an opportunity?

And we get a glimpse into this Levite's heart and motives.

He did not serve the One true and living God, he served himself, he was a hireling.

And you cannot trust a man who is only in it for the money, because when better opportunity comes they will go on.

It is so dangerous to the ministry when people who are called to shepherd are simply hirelings.

True shepherds receive their callings from God, and they are faithful.

When people share with me that they have a calling on their life, I watch them.

The true shepherds will remain faithful where they are serving, those who are only it for prestige and to be noticed, will always be discontented.

Today, much of the church has turned the pastorate into a career opportunity, and they chase better opportunity.

They tout their education, and present their resumes, but never is the calling considered.

And today, search committees look for their pastors along the lines of education, and even popularity, and name recognition.

But, I rather look for faithfulness to the call.

I remember my pastor, in Havasu, used to tell me, to just be faithful wherever I am serving, and when you are faithful, God will give you more.

Too many today are wanting the more, without the faithfulness.

Pastor Ray told me, he knew he was called to be a pastor, so he applied for the pastor's training at his church, and he said his application was denied, and they encouraged him to serve in the parking lot ministry.

He told me he served in that ministry for years, and he found joy in it, but he always knew he was called to be a pastor.

He never pushed his way into the position, he just stayed faithful where he was, and then he was given opportunity to teach group studies, and slowly over the years God opened the doors for him to pastor a church there in Lake Havasu.

I can honestly say, I never went looking to be a pastor, it was something I knew I was called too, but I never went putting out resumes.

I just learned to stay faithful with little, and I found over the years, God would add a little more.

Jess and I started in Ushers ministry, than we were moved to the 3 to 5 year olds, then we did junior high for years, and there were times I was teaching one junior high kid.

But we stayed faithful, we did not want to make it about us or our egos.

And God would open more doors, and we just never said no, and kept walking through those doors.

But you see faithfulness today is a fleeting characteristic in the church, people are ambitious, and if they are not getting their way, or enough attention they move on or give up.

Church, faithfulness is supreme in the work of God, if you have committed to serve somewhere, serve Him with all your heart soul and mind, and when you are faithful with little, He will give you more.

Our young ambitious Levite here, could not be settled anywhere, and continues to look for better opportunity in the humanistic religion of his day...

Let's look at the next chapter now....

The Danites Adopt Micah's Idolatry

18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them. 2 So the children of Dan sent five men of their family from their territory, men of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and search it. They said to them, "Go, search the land." So they went to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there. 3 While they were at the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. They turned aside and said to him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?"

4 He said to them, "Thus and so Micah did for me. He has hired me, and I have become his priest."

5 So they said to him, "Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous."

6 And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. The presence of the Lord be with you on your way."

Are you confused, you should be, false religion is always confusing.

These Danite spies lodge at Micah's house on the way to seek an inheritance.

Now, understand God had given them an inheritance just below Ephraim's territory, but they never went in to take it.

Dan refused to trust God in driving out the Amorites.

Remember we read of them in [Judges 1:34](#)

34 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley;

The tribe Dan was left with a couple of choices, they could repent of their unbelief and go with God to take their land, and that was God's will.

Or they could look for a more easier path, and seek out an easier conquest.

And Dan chooses to send the spies to look for this place of ease.

And they come to Micah's home, again, he must have been wealthy, and his shrine must have been well known.

The 5 Danite spies hear an accent that is not from Ephraim, and the inquirer of the Levite.

The Levite explains the man Micah hired him to be a priest.

Now the Danites, could have gone to Shiloh to inquirer of the Lord at the tabernacle.

But they already knew God had spoken where they were too dwell, they did not want to hear God's Word.

They sought a priest that would preach a message they wanted to hear.

So Micah's hireling scratches their itching ears, and tells them God will bless them.

They are looking to idols that go by the name of their God.

And Micah's priest preaches a prosperity doctrine, that wherever their feet trod they will be blessed.

One commentator I read warned "There is no greater danger faced by the North American Christians than the love of ease." Gary Inrig p. 303

And even more worse is their love for preachers that tell them that comfort is God's will for their lives.

It is the greatest temptation in our culture, to sit back, to pursue a life of ease, and settle down and make a life for yourself.

The same commentator said “No consistent New Testament Christian can live a life of ease. No lover of the cross can retire from God’s mission to the world.

Gary Inrig

It is the American Delusion, that the universe centers on the happiness of man, and we should seek our own happiness.

And there are huge churches full of preachers who were hired for ten shekels and a shirt, and preach messages that give their listeners justification into a life lived for self.

So with the belief in the word of a false teacher the Danite spies continue in their disobedience to the Lord.

7 So the five men departed and went to Laish. They saw the people who were there, how they dwelt safely, in the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure. There were no rulers in the land who might put them to shame for anything. They were far from the Sidonians, and they had no ties with anyone.

8 Then the spies came back to their brethren at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brethren said to them, "What is your report?"

9 So they said, "Arise, let us go up against them. For we have seen the land, and indeed it is very good. Would

you do nothing? Do not hesitate to go, and enter to possess the land. 10 When you go, you will come to a secure people and a large land. For God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth."

11 And six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war. 12 Then they went up and encamped in Kirjath Jearim in Judah. (Therefore they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. There it is, west of Kirjath Jearim.) 13 And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

14 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, "Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do." 15 So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite man — to the house of Micah — and greeted him. 16 The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate. 17 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, they took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image. The priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war.

18 When these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

19 And they said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?" 20 So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people.

21 Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them. 22 When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan. 23 And they called out to the children of Dan. So they turned around and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?"

24 So he said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, 'What ails you?'"

25 And the children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry men fall upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your

household!" 26 Then the children of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house.

So the Danites resolve to conquer and take Laish, and on the way to conquer the peaceful people there, they stopped off at Micah's house.

The spies have spoken of the wonderful shrine and religious items in Micah's household.

So the 600 armed men stayed at the gate while the 5 spies came in to steal the religious relics.

The priests catches them as they leave Micah's home, and asks in verse 19, "What are you doing?"

They were taking his livelihood, his means to earn a living.

So they responded by silencing him with a better job offer.

"Be a father and a priest to us. Surely it's better that you are priest to many over few."

And in verse 20, we see this opportunist had a glad heart.

Finally, someone has seen his potential.

"Here I am doing Children's ministry, I knew I was supposed to be doing more than this petty job!"

And this man goes where his talent is noticed for what it is.

Now, Micah eventually notices his relics are gone, and he gathers a few others who like the convenient religion in his home.

And they chase down the thieves...

Now, verse 24 is one of the saddest phrases in the whole Bible, and it is an embarrassing low for the people of God.

Judges 18:24 So he said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, 'What ails you?'"

When you are saying, "gods which I have made." Your god is no god at all.

How pathetic that they are arguing over a religion around gods you can manufacture.

Micah is putting his life on the line here trying to defend his petty religion.

After-all his poor gods cannot defend themselves.

This man is willing to kill others for his self-made stolen gods.

Church, if you worship a god that can be stolen, you are not worshipping any kind of god at all.

If you have to protect your god, it is no god at all.

When we turn away from the living and true God, we turn to this kind of folly, it leads to death, confusion, and self-deception.

Micah, who we met as a thief now becomes a victim of thieves.

The Danites tell him it is not worth it, and Micah turns back home.

So next, we see the final outcome of this confusing story...

Danites Settle in Laish

27 So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire. 28 There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth Rehob. So they rebuilt the city and dwelt there. 29 And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city formerly was Laish.

It is not clear how many peaceful people lived in Laish, but they were far removed from any help and very vulnerable.

And the tribe of Dan, only moved by their selfish desires and life of ease, kill these innocent people.

This is how debased the nation of Israel has become.

The absence of God in their society has given them over to a heart that has no regard for human life.

As long as they are good, and as long they are secure, they pay no mind to the innocent blood on their hand.

How can a people get so caught up in secular thinking, in idolatry, in false religion that they have no conviction in the ways of God?

It seems as though their god was a god of convenience.

Now, this god is still wreaking havoc on the innocent today.

Well over 55 million babies have been ripped out of their mother's womb violently in this nation, over the worship of this god of convenience.

And the numbers are so staggering, and the deed is so common, the barbarity of it all is justified by many, and as we have seen recently, even politicians are advocating and justifying the violent murder of babies, now even after birth!

The god of convenience is still very effective today, and its worship has millions of participants.

So the Danites go and take Laish, and make it their own city.

God was clear where Dan should go, and where Dan could live, yet they thought they knew a better way.

Prov. 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

Because the Danites made this grave error, this tribe will lead Israel in idolatry from here on out.

In fact, when the nation is divided in two, this tribe will host the false worship set up by Jeroboam.

And next we read the summery of their existence all the way until captivity.

30 Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land. 31 So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

There was no excuse for this, all the time the house of God was in Shiloh.

Yet they preferred idolatry.

Now at first glance, it really seems like in their rebellion things worked out wonderfully for the tribe of Dan.

They got a wonderful, fruitful land, they lived in a protected area, they seemed very successful.

But people do not always reap the harvest of their sins right away.

You see when we get into our study of 1 Chronicles in the months ahead, when the lists of the tribes and families are listed, Dan is completely ignored.

They kind of disappear into oblivion.

Most likely because of their intermarriages with the heathens nations around them, they eventually just integrated with them.

Dan refused to take what God had asked them too, in the end they lost it all.

Even in Revelation, when the 144,000 Hebrew believers are listed by tribe, Dan is left out once again.

They refused to obey God and chose the easy way instead, and God will refuse to give them part in the special ministry of blessing for Him in the future.

Again, the book of Judges is a huge warning signal for the church today.

And there is much for the church to take away from this account.

We were warned about the religion of Micah, the religion of relativism, where we can make truth up as we go.

Micah's folly warns us against self-made religion, that is artificial and comfortable.

It is the religion that is devoid of the truths of God's Word, and preaches to the desires of man, humanism reigns in the religion of Micah.

The happiness of man is its central theme.

And today, many gobble it up, because it feels so good.

But true faith is to be lived for the glory of God, our happiness is a by-product of our faith and obedience to God's Word.

Our happiness is not the prime-product or main objective in true Christianity.

Obedience is... We by faith believe and obey the Word of God in salvation and in Christian living, and this is where our joy comes from.

Micah's religion is false indeed.

We too can learn from Micah's hireling priest, whose religious service was only self-seeking and worldly.

He too forsook God's Word, for the better life.

Money, notoriety and success was his motive of operation.

We are warned of those who would serve God for ten shekels and a shirt in the New Testament as well.

Paul told those Christians in Philippi **Phil 3:17-20**
Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things.

You see there are those today, who are not looking to glorify God in their service, they believe they are meant for more, they believe that they are above the menial things.

They serve their belly, and their own glory.

They forsake the teachings of Christ, who said,

Mark 10:43-45

43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

If service is beneath, your working for the wrong master, Christ's servants will be faithful in the little things, until they are entrusted with more.

Micah's priests will always be looking for better opportunity, and more notoriety.

They cannot serve without being patted on the back and propped up.

Church, how wonderful it is to work for solely the eyes of your Savior, when you do, it will make 20 years serving on the cleaning ministry seem like only a few days.

When you serve to please your King, then nothing is below you.

When you are faithful with what Jesus asks of you, the reward is great, maybe not in this life, but surely there are great promises for the next.

Lastly, these Danites give us a dire warning against the religion of our day.

This love for the easy life, this love for comfort and convenience, in the end it is a love for the self-god, and it is the greatest threat to Christianity today.

This story gives us a stark warning against the religion of our day.

Church see through the delusion about us in our culture.

Continue marching on for Truth, the hostility will grow, the opposition is rising, but we cannot shy away from our calling.

We have a duty to reach our world and our culture for Jesus, to inform them that He died for lost sinners, rose again, to assure us knew life, and He alone has the power to change and transform hearts, homes, and churches.

Stay on mission, serve others, love greatly, and cling to God's Word.

Next time, we will see where faulty religion leads a nation, as Israel's apostasy will lead them now into moral failure.

Let's pray...