



## Overcoming a Corrupted Heart Judges 17-18

### The Corrupted Heart of a Nation (Book of Judges)

*"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes." –Judges 17:6*

- **Moses' prophecy to the future priests of Israel**  
*"Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to witness against them. For I know that after my death you will act corruptly and turn from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, for you will do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger with the work of your hands." Deuteronomy 31:28-30*
- **Moses' prophecy sadly fulfilled in the era of the Judges**  
*"But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways." Judges 2:19*

### The Corrupted Heart of a Family: "Helicopter Moms, Dysfunctional Kids and DIY Religion" Judges 17:1-6

*"Now there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah. He said to his mother, 'The eleven hundred pieces of silver which were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse in my hearing, behold, the silver is with me; I took it.'"*

*–Judges 17:1-2*

- Micah's name ironically means: "Who is like God?" (Judges 17:1)
- Steals from the bank account of his own mother (Judges 17:2)
- Micah's mother ignores Old Testament law (Leviticus 6:1-6) and helps her son start a cult (Judges 17:3-6)

### The Corrupted Heart of a Pastor: "Money Driven and Power Hungry Church Leadership" Judges 17:7-13

*"Micah said to him, 'Where do you come from?' And he said to him, 'I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to stay wherever I may find a place.' Micah then said to him, 'Dwell with me and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten pieces of silver a year, a suit of clothes, and your maintenance.' So the Levite went in." – Judges 17:9-10*

- God gave 48 Israel territories (Joshua 21), where Levites were called to live. Bethlehem was not one of them. (Judges 17:7-9)
- The Levite priest sold his soul for an annual salary of 10 pieces of silver and a new suit (Judges 17:10-13)
- The Levite priest was Moses' grandson: Jonathan (Judges 18:30)

### The Corrupted Heart of a Tribe: "Religious Real Estate Robbers" (Judges 18)

*"So they set up for themselves Micah's graven image which he had made, all the time that the house of God was at Shiloh." (Judges 18:31)*

- The tribe of Dan (Samson's tribe) was a wandering tribe because they refused to obey God's call (Joshua 19, Judges 18:1-11)
- Dan and Micah both sought a form of religion but denied the power of the one true God (Judges 18:12-26, 2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- The sad legacy of the tribe of Dan (Judges 18:27-31; 1 Kings 12:27-30 and Revelation 7:4-8)

## The Bad News: The corrupted heart that beats inside you and me

*“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’  
They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds;  
There is no one who does good.  
The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men  
To see if there are any who understand,  
Who seek after God.  
They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt;  
There is no one who does good, not even one.” – Psalm 14:1-3*

## The Good News: Jesus overcomes and cleanses our corrupted hearts through his death and resurrection

*“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” – Hebrews 10:19-25*

*“We make men without chests and expect from them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst.” - CS Lewis, Abolition of Man*

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## LifeGroup Discussion and Questions:

1. **Read Judges 17:1-6.** Micah and his mother are both exposed as having corrupted hearts in this passage. How did they use false idol worship to try and cover their corruption? How do people use false idol worship to cover their corruption today?
2. **Read Judges 17:7-13 and Judges 18:18-21.** The Levite in this story was a pastor greedy for power and money. List some of the ways he compromised his integrity in these passages. Take some time to pray as a group for the integrity and purity of our pastoral staff at Calvary and for other Christian leaders you know.
3. **Read Judges 18:27-31, 1 Kings 12:27-30 and Revelation 7:4-8.** The tribe of Dan established false worship in northern Israel. They lead the other tribes of Israel astray into this false worship, eventually influencing the split of the nation of Israel into a southern and northern kingdom. They are left out of the tribes mentioned in Revelation 7. What can we learn from the tribe of Dan's sad legacy? Spend time praying for your spiritual legacy as a follower of Jesus, that the generations that follow you will follow Jesus.

## Next Steps:

1. **Become a Christian (a follower of Jesus) today.**  
Only Jesus can cleanse your and my corrupted hearts. Use the booklet in the seat rack in front of you called, “The Way to Connect with God” to guide your prayer of inviting Jesus to be the Savior and Leader of your life.
2. **Come to Prayer Point located at the front sides of the Worship Center to receive prayer.**  
Pastors and prayer counselors will be available to pray with you or answer questions you may have about following Jesus.
3. **Connect in a LifeGroup for support and encouragement to grow in your faith with others.**  
LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in your faith and REACH out together to our neighborhoods and community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary's campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups)