

JUDGES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018
Week 12: Lusting After Reputation

Scripture Reading: Judges 9:22-57

1. Gaal's mockery (verses 22-33)

- Frustrations from the people of Shechem
- Verse 26: A new character emerges = Gaal
- Three things to see from verses 30 & 31:
 - *Perhaps Zebul was at the party all along?*
 - *Zebul has an anger problem too*
 - *Zebul has spies at the festival*
- Abimelech responds like we would expect: a secret ambush

2. Abimelech's rage (verses 34-45)

- Zebul gives Abimelech the signal for the ambush/trap
- Two things to see from verses 40 & 41:
 - *Gaal is a skilled fighter*
 - *Gaal & his family are banished from Shechem*

- This leads to another break out of civil war with devastating results in verses 43-45

3. God's justice (verses 46-57)

- HOPE to be found: *"the house of El-berith"*
- *Lusting for power, reputation, and hiding insecurities is Abimelech's motive*
- "A certain woman" in verse 53
- Abimelech's shame & death
- God's name returns to the narrative – it's been missing since Judges 7:21. *God gets the last laugh*
- **What do we learn from Judges 9:22-57?** (the longest chapter in Judges)
 - *We must be patient*
 - *We must work together*
 - Psalm 18:1-2
 - *We must never doubt*
 - Hebrews 11:6