

JUDGES

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Week 21: The Five Spies

Scripture Reading: Judges 18:1-31

1. Spies that search (verses 1-7)

- These five unnamed spies are the root cause for all the issues in this entire chapter
- The tribe of Dan is still homeless after 350+ years
 - Judges 1:27-36, particularly verse 34
- The spies recognize the voice of the Levite
- Two things to see from their words in **verse 5**:
 - The spies are being superstitious
 - The spies are spiritually lost
 - Verses 5-6 are the only time God's name is mentioned in the entire chapter
- The Levite's *fake blessing*
- Laish is 70 miles north of the spies original starting point – they have travelled 100 miles to claim a town as their own

2. Spies that report (verses 8-15)

- “*God has given it into your hands*”
- Jacob's prophecy from Genesis 49
- **600 men** “*armed with weapons of war*” respond to the spies' report

3. Spies that steal (verses 16-21)

- The five spies take everything, then tempt the Levite to *come and “work for them”*
- *“And the priest’s heart was glad”*
- Verse 21 = Not only 600 men, but they have already brought their families

4. Spies that threaten (verses 22-26)

- Micah pursues them and confronts them about their theft
- *“What have I left?”*
- The people of Dan are *“shocked”* that anyone would accuse them of wrongdoing
- Verse 25 = they threaten to kill Micah if he keeps talking
- Verse 26 = Micah returns home, **his false gods unable to save him**

5. Spies that lead astray (verses 27-31)

- Verses 27-29 = The murder and destruction of Laish
- Verse 30 = the moment the author’s been waiting for since the Levite showed up in **Judges 17:7** = The LEVITE IS: Jonathan, son of Gershom, son of MOSES
 - **Two things** to consider about Jonathan’s identity & all of Judges 18:
 - A leader without God is an outcast
 - **EX:** We aren’t *“grandfathered-in”* as Christians. Our salvation was purchased individually by Jesus on the Cross
 - A tribe without God is an outcast
 - Dan was the *complete opposite* of what God intended
- Verse 31 = Dan’s people are led astray for the **next 400+ years** before the great captivity to Babylon and Assyria/destruction of Shiloh