

JUDGES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Week 24 (LAST): Stolen Women

Scripture Reading: Judges 21:1-25

1. Lamenting for Benjamin (verses 1-7)

- *“No one of us shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin”*
- *The issue:* a tribe that will cease to be
- A witch hunt for **WHO** didn't help in Judges 20
- *“people of Israel had compassion”*

2. The stealing of women (verses 8-12)

- In verse 8 they discover that no one had come from *Jabesh-gilead*
 - Were noble men: 1 Samuel 11
 - Were descendants of Rachel: Genesis 46:19-22
- Verse 10 = *“also the women and the little ones”*
- **Two** things to see from verse 11:
 - United Israel is still bitter
 - United Israel is acting like their enemies
- In verse 12, they “find” **400** virgin women

3. Even more stealing of women (verses 13-25)

- In verse 13, they “*declare peace*” toward Benjamin. The Benjaminites return home in verse 14, but the stolen women given to them aren’t enough: **200 short!**
- In verses 16-18, the elders of Israel justify their: greed, theft, pride, and selfishness
- In verses 19-21, they steal **200 more** women (**virgin or not**) from the yearly feast in Shiloh
- In verse 24, they declare that their job is “done” and return home
- In verse 25, for the *fourth and final time*, we see a familiar and haunting phrase:
 - **WHY** is everyone doing what was “*right in his own eyes*”?
 - Incapable? NO – we’ll see this when we study RUTH.
 - Carelessness + an endless list of reasons!
 - Sin **NEVER satisfies** and only leads to DEATH
- **God sent a SAVIOR** to the MESS, to give us a **MESSY GOSPEL**
- **At the end of Judges**, we’re called to do **three things**:
 - **Repent**
 - WSC # 87
 - **Obey**
 - “*more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness*”
 - **Be firm in faith**
 - 2 Timothy 2:11-13