

Life Group Guide Jud 9:1–57 “The Law of the Harvest”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Jul 16 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Jul 23

Icebreaker Question

Apart from the church, what group, society, or event is most important to knowing who you are?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

I. Evil Intentions Conceived (9:1-21)

- a. Deceitful Proposition
- b. Deceitful Characteristics
 - i. Selfish ambition is a deceitful characteristic (vv. 1-2).
 - ii. Idolatry is a deceitful characteristic (v. 4).
 - iii. Cruel behavior is a deceitful characteristic (v. 5).
 - 1. Selfish ambition is a deceitful characteristic (vv. 1-2).
 - 2. Idolatry is a deceitful characteristic (v. 4).
 - 3. Cruel behavior is a deceitful characteristic (v. 5).

There are three steps that anger takes in our life to move us to sin (Matt. 5:21-22).

 - a. The first step in anger involves your attitude.
 - b. The second step in anger involves animosity.
 - c. The final step in anger involves your actions.
 - 4. Dishonesty is a deceitful characteristic (v. 6).
 - 5. Pride is a deceitful characteristic (vv. 7-21).

II. Evil Intentions Exposed (9:22-49)

- a. Consequences of Evil Intentions (vv. 22-49)
- b. Characteristics of an Evil Influence (1 Cor. 15:33)?
 - i. An evil influence will have a tendency toward self-indulgence (Rom. 16:18).
 - ii. An evil influence will have a tendency toward deceit (Matt. 5:37).
 - iii. An evil influence will have a tendency toward anger (Prov. 22:24-25).
 - iv. An evil influence will have tendency toward selfishness (Jam. 3:16).
 - v. An evil influence will have a tendency toward vindictive and useless words (Prov. 18:21a).
 - vi. An evil influence will have a tendency to be divisive in their words, attitudes, and actions (Prov. 6:12-14).
 - vii. An evil influence will have a tendency toward an unforgiving spirit (Eph. 4:31-32).

III. Evil Intentions Rewarded (9:50-57)

- a. Cost of Evil Intentions
- b. Certainty of the Harvest (Gal. 6:7-9)
 - i. The harvest will be determined by what you plant.
 - ii. The harvest comes after you’ve sown the seed.
 - iii. The harvest is greater than the planting.
 - iv. We can’t do anything about the present harvest, but we can change the next one.

Jud 9:1–21

Read Jud 8:30–9:21 Observation

1. In 8:30–35, who was Gideon’s illegitimate son? How many half-brothers did he have? Where was his mother’s family from? How did Israel treat Gideon and his family?
2. In 9:1–6, what does Abimelech ask the men of Shechem? What do the men of Shechem do with Abimelech’s half-brothers? Who survives this slaughter?
3. In 9:7–15, Jotham proclaims a parable to the people of Shechem. It includes a number of trees looking for a king. Which tree represents Abimelech? Is this tree high or low to the ground?
4. In 9:16–21, what will happen to Shechem and Abimelech if they have been unfaithful?

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Interpretation

5. How did Abimelech manipulate his mother’s family and their city? How should Christians respond when evil people manipulate others against us? In what ways can we trust God when those things happen? Do the ideas behind Jotham’s words apply to all such situations?

Application

6. Is there anyone you know suffering wrongly because of others? Is there anyone causing suffering whom you need to pray for?

Jud 9:22–49

Read Jud 9:22–49: Observation

7. In 9:22–25, how long had Abimelech ruled over Israel? What did God do? Why did He do it?
8. In 9:26–29, what did Gaal do and say? What did he say to or about Abimelech?
9. In 9:30–34, what did Zebul the city’s ruler say to Abimelech? How did he respond?
10. In 9:35–41, how did Zebul deceive Gaal? What happened in the conflict?
11. In 9:42–45, what did Abimelech do to the people and city of Shechem?
12. In 9:46–49, where did the people of the tower go? What did Abimelech do?

Interpretation

13. Why did God send an evil spirit on Abimelech and the people of Shechem? How did Jotham’s words warn them and us about taking advantage of others?
14. Why is boasting so common for people? What is wrong about boasting? How should someone recognize his own boasting? How should someone respond to another’s boasting?
15. Why do people so easily divide into tribes? What are people trying to gain or protect with tribalism? How might the church fall into this same trap?

Application

16. What tribe are you tempted to follow before Christ? What should you change about this?
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Jud 9:50–57

Read Jud 9:50–57: Observation

17. In 9:50–51, where did Abimelech go to next? What did the people do?
18. In 9:52–53, what did Abimelech do to them? Which of the people acted and what happened?
19. In 9:54–55, what did Abimelech want his armor-bearer to do? What did he do?
20. In 9:56–57, why did God act this way against Abimelech and the people of Shechem?

Interpretation

21. Can mankind escape God’s judgment? How should a believer’s new life in Christ and victory over death change how he acts with others, especially those who do good or evil?

Application

22. Please memorize 9:56. Whom will you tell this week about life with God in Christ?
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