

Life Group Guide Jud 10:1–18 “Actions Speak Louder than Words”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Jul 23 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Jul 30

Icebreaker Question

Which movies or tv series are very repetitive, but you still find yourself watching it?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. An absence of gratitude is evidence of spiritual decay (vv. 1-5).**
 - a. Israel was void of any sincere gratitude to the Lord (vv. 1–5).
 - b. Five reasons an attitude of gratitude is important for a believer.
 - i. An attitude of gratitude can give you more energy (Prov. 15:13).
 - ii. An attitude of gratitude can make you more other-centered (Phil. 2:3-4).
 - iii. An attitude of gratitude can make you physically feel better (Prov. 17:22).
 - iv. An attitude of gratitude can help you become less materialistic (Acts 20:35).
 - v. An attitude of gratitude can help combat negativity and the negative emotions that follow (Phil. 4:8).
- II. A lack of submission to the Lord is evidence of spiritual decay (vv. 6-16).**
 - a. Israel’s lack of submission to the Lord (vv. 6–16).
 - b. Submission in the life of a believer is non-negotiable (1 Pet. 5:5-9).
 - i. Biblical submission tells me that I’m not the independent person I think I am (vv. 5-7).
 - ii. Biblical submission doesn’t allow me to flaunt my righteousness (vv. 8-9).
- III. A lack of spiritual commitment is evidence of spiritual decay (vv. 17-18).**
 - a. Israel’s lack of commitment to the things of God resulted in the lack of adequate leadership (vv. 17–18).
 - b. Don’t make resolutions, make commitments.
 - i. Be honest about your struggles (2 Cor. 12:9).
 - ii. Rest in God’s presence and strength (Matt. 11:28-29).
 - iii. Don’t look horizontally for what can only be found vertically (Matt. 6:33).
 - iv. Deepen your relationship to the body of Christ (Heb. 10:24-25).
 - v. Argue with your own heart (Phil. 4:8).
 - vi. Work to assure that praise replaces complaint (1 Thess. 5:16-18).
 - vii. Rest in the complete work of Jesus Christ (Psalm 46:10a).

Jud 10:1–5

Read Jud 10:1–5 Observation

- 1. In 10:1–2, who was the next judge of Israel after Abimelech? Where was he from? How long did he judge Israel?
- 2. In 10:3–5, who was the next judge of Israel? How long did he judge Israel? How many sons did he have? What other things were tied to the number of his sons?

Interpretation

- 3. How should we understand the judgeships of Tola and Jair? Why might the author of Judges stop to tell us about them and their times and yet also tell us so little about what happened? Does the minimal information mark their judgeships as insignificant?

Application

- 4. What are the small, seemingly insignificant parts of your life that you know God values more than you do? What makes you think of these moments as small? How might you pray about seeking God in these small moments?

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Jud 10:6–16

Read Jud 10:6–16: Observation

5. In 10:6, what did Israel do yet again? What named idols did they serve? Which nations’ gods did they serve when they forsook the LORD?
6. In 10:7, God’s anger against Israel sold them into the hands of what nations?
7. In 10:8, how long did these nations shatter and crush the sons of Israel? What part of the nation of Israel felt this burden (east or west of the Jordan river)?
8. In 10:9, who crossed the Jordan to fight against other parts of Israel?
9. In 10:10, what did the sons of Israel do next? What did they say to God?
10. In 10:11–12, how did God respond to Israel’s cries? What did God say to Israel?
11. In 10:13, what does God remind Israel of again? What surprising thing does God say next?
12. In 10:14, what does God “command” Israel to do?
13. In 10:15, how does Israel answer? Whom do they blame? What are they willing to accept? What is their hope?
14. In 10:16, what did Israel do that was consistent with their confession? What did God grow tired of?

Interpretation

13. Why is Israel’s sin so cyclical? What does this pattern say about them? What does it say about all peoples? What does it say about God’s anger? How is God’s anger distinct from our anger?
14. Why does God “command” Israel to serve other gods at this time? Is God giving up on Israel? Is God throwing Israel away? What else might God be doing, based on His response to their confession and what His heart grew tired of seeing?
15. Despite all that Israel did wrong, what did their confession and actions (10:15–16) say about how they understood God? What was good about what they said and did? What did they know God could do? Why did they still have hope about God?

Application

16. What are the sin patterns that consistently plague you at work, home, or school? What new habits might change how you serve God in these parts of life? Who in the church would you ask to help you with this?
17. Please memorize Judges 10:16.

Jud 10:17–18

Read Jud 10:17–18: Observation

18. In 10:17–18, who gathered against Israel? Who is Israel looking for as they ready for battle?

Interpretation

19. Why is it important to have leaders with good character? How does conflict often help us see the need for greater leaders than we have, even greater than ourselves?

Application

20. How might you use this chapter of Judges to minister to Christians caught in a pattern of sin? Would you be willing to receive such counsel yourself from a fellow church member?