

Life Group Guide Jud 13:1–25 “Commitment or Compromise”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Aug 13 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Aug 20

Icebreaker Question

What is the longest wait you have ever had for food? What happened to your emotions as you waited?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

I. The Cycle Continues (v. 1)

- a. Consequences of Compromise
- b. Five signs that compromise is at work in your life.
 - i. When compromise is at work in your life you tend to be divisive (Pro. 6:16-19; Rom. 16:17).
 - ii. When compromise is at work in your life you tend to become arrogant (Gal. 6:1-3).
 - iii. When compromise is at work in your life you tend to start blurring the moral lines (Rom. 12:2).
 - iv. When compromise is at work in your life you tend to become discouraged (John 16:33).
 - v. When compromise is at work in your life you tend to retreat to feelings of self-pity (Jam. 1:2-4).

II. Miraculous Intervention (vv. 2-25)

- a. God Makes a Way
- b. 7 Excuses for Not Doing What God Called Us to Do
 - i. I can’t!
 - ii. I don’t know how!
 - iii. I don’t have time!
 - iv. I’m all alone!
 - v. I’m afraid!
 - vi. I can’t afford it!
 - vii. I won’t!

Jud 13:1–7

Read Jud 13:1–7 Observation

1. In 13:1, what did Israel do yet again? How did God respond this time?
2. In 13:2, what was the name of the man listed? What is his tribe? What problem did he face?
3. In 13:3–5, who appeared to Manoah’s wife? What did he command her? Why did he do so?
4. Please read Num 6:1–12, 21. What is the name of this vow? From what things must someone abstain in this vow? What must such a person do with whatever vow he makes?
5. In 13:6–7, what does she tell Manoah? What did she not ask of the messenger? How long will this vow last for the promised son?

Interpretation

6. Why does God make people wait a long time for so many good things? How is God usually being good to people when He has us wait?
7. Why is saying “no” to some things of the world essential to learning to say “yes” to God’s will? Is such fasting important for Christians, or is fasting limited to Old Testament saints? What is our goal in Christian fasting?

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Application

8. Will you pray to God this week to see if you or your family needs to fast from anything?

Jud 13:8–18

Read Jud 13:8–18: Observation

- 9. In Jud 13:8–10, what did Manoah pray? How did God respond? What did his wife do?
- 10. In Jud 13:11–12, what two things did Manoah ask the messenger?
- 11. In Jud 13:13–14, how did the messenger respond to Manoah? Did he answer the question directly?
- 12. In Jud 13:15–16, what did Manoah offer the messenger? What was his reply to Manoah? What did Manoah not know?
- 13. In Jud 13:17–18, what did Manoah want to know about the messenger? How did he reply?

Interpretation

14. Manoah struggled to understand who the messenger is, so why did the messenger receive him as positively as he did? What traits did Manoah’s actions and word reflect? What does this teach us about how we should approach God?

Application

15. How can you adjust your spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, bible study, gathering with the church, the two ordinances, so that your approach to God in these parts of life proves genuine?

Jud 13:19–25

Read Jud 12:1–15: Observation

- 16. In 13:19–20, what happened to Manoah’s sacrifice? How did Manoah respond?
- 17. In 13:21–22, what did Manoah understand now? What was his fear?
- 18. In 13:23, how did his wife respond to his fear?
- 19. In 13:24–25, who was born? Who began to stir him and bless him?

Interpretation

20. How does Manoah’s fear compare to his wife’s? Which fear is good? What does each fear say about God’s character and intentions for people? Which kind of fear should mark the life of a faithful Christian today?

Application

- 21. Please memorize Jud 13:18.
 - 22. How might you use this chapter to encourage someone struggling to trust God after a long season of disappointments?
 - 23. Which of your neighbors have no knowledge of God in Christ, but their lives are open to you spending time with them so that you can share the gospel with how you live and what you say?
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