

June 17, 2018

Pastor Andy McClellan

Series Title: "Judges: Will You Choose to Walk with God?"

Message Title: Walking Without the Faithful Father(s)

Message Text: Judges 1-21

Walking Without the Faithful Father leads to...

1. Forgetful **Rebellion** & Failed **Obedience**, 1:1, 21, 27-33; 2:1-10 (cf. *Psalm 78:1-8; Deut. 32:44-47; Revelation 3:3*)
2. Repeated **Sin** & Resulting **Punishment**, 2:11-20; Chs. 3-16 (cf. *Deut. 28; Josh. 23:15-16; Hebrews 12:5-6*)
3. Corrupted **Morals** & Chaotic **Anarchy**, 21:25; 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25 (cf. *Proverbs 14:12; Psalm 81; Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 4:17-32*).



One of the reasons for Israel's fall into repeated sin and chaos was that they forgot about God and what He had done for them in the past. As a way of reminding your children of God's faithfulness, spend some time as a family remembering what God has done for you. Have each person contribute something God has done for him or her *personally*, followed by God's faithfulness expressed to the family *corporately*. Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for His gracious work in your lives (Psalm 9:1). Make this a habit.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Deuteronomy 8. In vv. 2 and 11, God commands the people to remember, and not to forget. Why did He need to warn them about forgetting? What is the correlation in this chapter between forgetting and living in a time of wealth and ease? What are the consequences if they disobey? How do you see these consequences played out in the book of Judges? How have you seen them played out in your own life?
2. In Judges 3, a "sin cycle" of "rebellion, retribution, repentance, rescue, repeat" begins. Israel sins, God raises and empowers a judge to rescue them, but Israel ultimately goes right back into the same sins (and worse). Why is that? Why do they cycle through the same sins when God is so gracious to rescue them? What is missing in their repentance? Does this sound familiar in your life? How is Hebrews 5:11-6:20 helpful for us?
3. Walking away from God led the people of Israel to walk in sinful downward-spiraling circles so that by the end of Judges (chs. 17-21), they have creatively found ways to sin and are engaged in a civil war. In each of these cases, the author of Judges includes this phrase: "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." How is having a king (or any leader) a safeguard against this pattern of sin? How is it a possible danger (ex. 2 Kings 17:21)? What factor makes the difference between a godly leader and an ungodly leader (see Deut. 17:14-20)?



NEXT WEEK: "Purposeful Pity for a Pitiful People" Pastor Andy