



## The Book of Judges

### Lesson 11

#### Men Without Chests

These final chapters of Judges barely mention the Lord. They are showing us what life was like when Israel was left to their own resources. We now get the view of Israel and how humanity operates when they leave God out of the picture.

Read Judges 17:1-4

Micah – a man neither good nor bad.

1. In verse 1, he has stolen 1,100 shekels of silver.
2. In verse 2, he returns the money because of the curse.
3. In verse 3, he makes an idol.

Question: Both the son and the mother disregard each other. Why is attitude so significant in being a parent and in being the child of the parent?

Micah and his mother also disregard God. Read Exodus 20:4-5, Deut. 4:15-17.

Question: The real issue in worshipping-by-images is the desire to shape and revise God spiritually. How do we try to shape God to fit our spirituality?

Read Judges 17:5-13

Homemade Religion – Micah sets up his own sanctuary for worship for his convenience.

Question: What happens when an individual or a church creates its own religion to fit its own personal preference?

The shrine or idol needs its own priest. So, they find a Levite who could be from their family origin and make their own Levite priest.

Important! God says, “Worship me as I am, not as you want me to be, and worship me as my heart directs, not as your heart suggests”.

Question: How committed are you with your relationship to Christ? Is it on your terms or is it on His?

Read Judges 18:1-6

The priest gives the blessing. Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord's approval.

Question: Where is the prayer from the priest? Is it God's approval or is it from his own intuition? What do you think? Have you ever done that?

The Danites are a picture of the weakest of those who call themselves God's people. They have not obeyed God.

Read Judges 18:7-20

The Levite serves whoever will pay him. A ministry promoted by self-promotion. This is hollow worship.

Question: How is self-promotion still evident even today? All done in the name of Jesus?

Read Judges 18:21-31

The Danites took Micah's gods and his priest. He asks, "What else do I have?"

Question: Self-made religion is a disappointment. How do we stay away from the kind of deception in our own lives? How is your relationship with Christ? Are you striving towards Him or towards what you want?

When we find Jesus, we find blessing – but we only truly experience his blessing when we say to him, "Jesus, without you, what else do I have?"

Question: Is Jesus everything to you? What do you need to do to make Him that place in your life?

When we live our own way and do what is right in our own eyes, we simply become "People without Chests".

In 2019: We will go on Christmas break until the week of January 7, 2019. We will begin studying the book of Mark. Our study will begin with Mark 1:1-13 "The Victor".