

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. Bible Study

Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Sr.-Teacher

Judges 3

Start date: 17 Dec 03

The Purpose Of Opposing Parties

v.1 The Lord had a purpose for the enemies that lived among the children of Israel. They were to “prove” them or, in other words,

They children of Israel disobeyed God. He told them to kill the inhabitants of Canaan, but instead, they allowed them to dwell in the land. The Lord now pronounces that the enemy around them would be used by God to prepare His people for warfare.

Our disobedience puts us in similar situations. We disobey God and wind up in circumstances that only spiritual warfare will get us out of. The Lord will allow people who oppose His will for our lives to be around us and make life difficult. Why? To prove, mature, and sanctify us. Just as the remaining enemies were to push the children of Israel’s buttons and show what Israel was really made of, there are many in our lives who do the same.

Do you have any people around you who do that? What you need to do is show them what you’re really made of. Like the rapper, Mystikal, would do: show them what you’re working with!

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. Jas. 1:2-4 Msg

Who Are They? What Are They Doing Here?

v.4 Know who’s around you. Do they pose a threat to your obeying the will of God? The children of Israel had Canaanites around them and did not see them as a threat to their well-being. As time went on, however, things turned out to prove different.

We must seek the Lord concerning who’s around us. Who are the persons in our homes? On our jobs? In ministry with us? Who are our enemies? Who are the people we date?

Be alert and discerning in regards to those persons in your life. Seek the Lord as to why they’re in your life and how He is to get glory out of your relationship with them. What does the Bible say about this? Write the scriptures I give you in the space provided below:

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Now, don’t go quit your job because your workplace is full of sinners. Don’t go home and divorce your unsaved spouse because *they ain’t right*. We are not forbidden to dwell among sinners.

Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord, If a Christian man has a wife who is an unbeliever and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. And if a Christian woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he is willing to continue living with her,

she must not leave him. I Cor. 7: 12-14
NLT

Just as sinners will live out their purpose, be sure to live out yours, which is to live holy in the midst of them so that God is glorified.

Scriptures:

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Research Project: You are to look up the following in any Bible dictionary or encyclopedia and share your findings in small groups on Wednesday, January 7, 2004. For those among us who don't read well, fret not, for one of your brothers or sisters in Christ will gladly help you with this assignment!

Sidonians

Hivites

Hittites

Amorites

Perizzites

Hivites

Jebusites

Baalim

Chushanrishathaim

Moabites

The children of Ammon

The children of Amalek

Values & Relationships

v.6 The children of Israel went overboard when they married Canaanite women. Instead of influencing the Canaanite women to adopt Jehovah as their one and only God, the children of Israel sold out and worshipped false gods of Canaan. These gods had nothing to do with Israel's deliverance, but they worshipped them. These gods had nothing to do with the battles they victoriously fought to come from Egypt, but they worshipped them. These gods had nothing to do with the manna that fed them when they were hungry, but the children of Israel worshipped them. These gods had nothing to do with a way being made outta no way when the Red Sea parted, but they worshipped them. After all God had brought His people through, they now wanted to devote their lives to relationships and lifestyles that did not promote the prosperity God had in store for them.

Many of us do the same thing. After we finally graduate college and get a good job, we're too tired for worship on Sunday morning. I've seen single people on fire for the Lord finally get a serious dating relationship with someone not as committed as they and then back off from the things of God.

Remember when Pastor Heard preached our revival? Two of his messages come to mind right here: "Who's Traveling With You?" and "The Danger of Not Discussing With The Divine". The first one came from II Sam. 23:8-17 and dealt with David being an awesome leader because of the awesome people around him who aspired for greatness. Pastor Heard shared with us how these men were going in the same direction as David.

The Canaanites were not going in the same direction as the children of Israel. Are the people in your life going in the same direction as you when it comes to the things of God? Are they being disciplined by a godly mentor/teacher? Are they Bible students? Do they have goals? How do they invest their time? How do they invest their money? What do you all have in common in these areas?

We should be careful as to who we allow to get in our space if we are serious about going somewhere with God. As I've shared with you before, Judges is the account of a people who had a good thing going, but they messed it up. We should not want our own biography to resemble theirs.

The second message deals with the consequences of not praying about certain people who show up in our lives. It comes from Josh. 9:2-20 and this is where folks who mean the people of God no good try to appear non-threatening and wind up doing harm to the children of Israel. If Israel's leadership would've prayed before entering into a covenant with these people, things would've been much different. They ended up in covenant with their enemy and *they couldn't kill them, they would not die, the children of Israel would just have to deal with them.*

Some of us have wound up in similar situations. We did not pray about those around us or those persons who just showed up in our lives to "help us" and they hurt us. Pray about those around you and let the Lord lead you in the commitments you make especially, as in the context of this scripture, in the area of marriage.

Let me share with you some excerpts from Bill Hybel's Making Life Work. In the chapter entitled, Marry Well, he shares some tips that he received from Neil Clark Warren's Finding the Love of Your Life.

Take It Slow

Grow Up First

In Love With Being In Love?

This Isn't About Pleasing Others

Really Know Each Other

Have A Marriage Model

Know The Broken Places

Compatibility: The God Factor

The Character Factor

The Emotional Health Factor

The Talk Factor

The Magic Factor

What do you look for in relationships? If you could establish a checklist for friends, business partners, dates, employees, or the like, what would you list?

1.

2.

3.

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Now, list the names of those who are very close to you. Do they meet the requirements you've listed above?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The Purpose of Your Punishment

v.8 God gets angry and “sells” the children of Israel into bondage. He did this in order to get them to _____ to Him.

For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness-in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God] Heb. 12:11 AMP

Prayer-Leadership-Warfare-Deliverance

Prayer

v.9 God answers prayer even when it rises out of bondage. It is important to pray when you're in trouble that you've needlessly gotten yourself in. Do not allow guilt and shame to keep you from praying and calling on the name of the Lord. God will hear our faintest cry even when it comes from a saint being sentenced to sorrow as a result of straying away from the will of God. Here are some scriptures to keep in mind:

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Leadership

v.10 “And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him”..... What do we look for in leadership? Anointed leadership makes the difference. I like what the verse goes on to say, “And he judged Israel”. Othniel, Caleb's nephew, was anointed to exercise godly discernment in leading God's people. Of all the things godly leaders can request from God, we should ask that His Spirit would rest upon us. Among the many things He gives us, we receive from the Holy Spirit power and discernment. Whether we lead in God's church, in government, in business, in education, and/or in the home, we need to constantly walk in the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Pastors, ministers, deacons, mayors, governors, senators, principals, teachers, counselors, coaches, moms, and dads need to be endowed with the Spirit of God.

Scriptures:

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Warfare

v.10 “And went out to war”... Sometimes, as we will see in our study of Judges, the only way out of trouble is through warfare. Some timid saints need to realize that the only way to their deliverance is to fight their way out. How do we fight for our deliverance from trouble to triumph?

- Dissatisfaction with your disobedience
- Determination to fight until you're delivered

- Dependence on the weapons God provide
- Disclosure of your warfare with others
- Discernment
- Diet necessary for maintaining victory after the battle is over

Deliverance

v.11 “And the land had rest”... God brought them out of their bondage and the children of Israel enjoyed a season of peace. Let us know overlook the fact that anointed leadership will inevitably and unfortunately cause trouble sometimes.

Scriptures:

However, we should do all we can to bring peace for the people we lead.

Scriptures:

Here We Go Again!

v.12 “And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord”.... How many times have we done this ourselves? God got us out of trouble and we enjoyed peace for a season and fell back into temptation again. Some folks got out of ungodly relationships for a minute and found their way back into the same one or another one worse than the one before. Some saints came out of rehab for an addiction, enjoyed deliverance and peace for a season, and returned to the bondage of addiction again.

This is the summary of the book of Judges: failing over and over again only to find God delivering over and over again. I pray that as we see the children of Israel in their cycle of

sin and punishment that we’ll see there is mercy, love, and God’s determination to bless in the cycle as well. Although we keep messing up over and over again, God keeps forgiving over and over again. Be encouraged. Keep praying, studying, confessing, and all the other things necessary to grow and overcome knowing that God has a plan for your life.

Notes:

“A Man Left-Handed”

v.12-30 Don’t mess with Ehud. Ehud was different. Many of us never realize it, but the thing that makes us unlike everyone else is often the thing God will use to make us bring Him glory like no one else can. What’s left-handed about you? What makes you different? Is there anything about you that you see as a handicap that can actually be a blessing from the Lord?

Notes:

If You Only Had One Thing To Say About Me.....

v.31 There’s not much said about Shamgar, but the little bit we have is substantial. There is no more data on Shamgar. We don’t know how old he was. He killed 600 of the enemy, but were there others who partnered with him on some other mountain top or valley floor slaying another 600? We don’t know. Was he married? Was he anointed like Othniel? Was he clever like Ehud? Was he challenged in his faith like Gideon? Did he have a song like Deborah? We don’t know a lot about

him. But in this one verse we see bravery, determination, uncanny military skill, resourcefulness-*I'd never thought to use an ox goad as a weapon...whatever an ox goad is!* Shamgar was a badd...watch your mouth!

One thing is said about him: he slew 600 of the enemy and brought deliverance for the children of Israel. If there were only one thing to say about you, what would you really want that to be? Most saints would probably say, "That I helped somebody along the way." Helped somebody do what? Get saved? Do the will of God? Become a better person? These are broad statements. Can you answer my question with something specific? For example, if one thing could be said about me, I'd like for someone to say I helped them find their purpose for living and they're living it out to the glory of God. I want to help people discover who they are and the specific people that God has ordained for them to minister to. Some people are to minister to businessmen and help them become better leaders while some others may be ordained to help young boys with life skills. There are some people who are supposed to generate wealth so that they can use their gift of giving to support local and foreign missions. I have a passion for helping people find their purpose to where they can specifically articulate what the Lord has gifted them to do with their lives.

What is one thing you'd like to be said about you? Can you be specific?

Summary Of Chapter 3

Additional Notes