



3. Initial failures help us look to the Lord. (Judges 20:18-28)

4. The utter defeat of Benjamin (Judges 20:29-48)

## Table Talk

- 1) What evidence do we see of tribal unity, where there has been none in the time of the Judges? (vv. 1-2) Why do controversy and debate move people to action more than a pursuit of God? Why, for example, are many Christians more willing to speak out about various cultural controversies than they are about the Gospel?
- 2) How does the Levite give his testimony? (vv. 4-7) What is trustworthy about his testimony? What is not trustworthy?
- 3) Why does the tribe of Benjamin not simply surrender the evil men of Gibeah to justice? Why do people often dig in their heels in defense of people who actually need to be judged?
- 4) What is the order of decision making in this chapter? (vv. 8-23) Does Israel consult the Lord and then go to war? Or, do they decide to go to war and then consult the Lord? In what ways is it easy for us to get the order of decision making wrong?
- 5) Why did the Lord allow Israel to lose so many in the first two battles with Benjamin? (vv. 19-26) Why does the Lord allow His people to fail in a cause that He Himself endorses?
- 6) What similarities and what differences exist in the versions of the battle as related in verses 29-36 and then in verses 36-48? What is good about the tribe of Benjamin? What is bad about the tribe of Benjamin? What is ugly about the tribe of Benjamin? Why might the apostle Paul have emphasized his being from the tribe of Benjamin twice in his letters? (see Romans 11:1; Philippians 3:5) How is the Gospel of Jesus Christ exalted in this chapter of Judges?