



# SERMON NOTES

Sunday, September 26, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

## **“The Worst Story Ever . . . or Is It?”**

Judges 19

1. The multiplied sins of family life start our story of woe.  
(Judges 19:1-9)
2. The selfish loss of community compounds our story of woe.  
(Judges 19:10-21)
3. The rotten sin of abuse and violence seals the woe of pain and judgment. (Judges 19:22-26)

4. The wrong that brings woe is not bringing sin to light. It is the sin itself.  
(Judges 19:27-30)

## Table Talk

- 1) Why do you think that the book of Judges ends with two stories about Levites from Bethlehem? Should sin in spiritual leaders be exposed? Why or why not? Why are the sins of these Levites exposed? What is the sin of the Levite in 19:1?
- 2) How does the concubine respond to the Levite's treatment of her? (v. 2) How is this a story of reconciliation and hospitality? (vv. 3-9) How is this part of the story setting us up for deep disappointment? Have you ever experienced the hopefulness of reconciliation or hospitality only to see things fall apart?
- 3) Why does the Levite not enter Jebus (Jerusalem)? (vv. 10-12) In what way is this kind of "purity" hypocritical? What are ways that Christians today have hypocritical standards of purity? What kind of hospitality did the Levite find in Gibeah? (v. 15) Who finally takes the Levite in? (vv. 16-21) Why do you think that the old man does not want the group to spend the night in the square? (v. 20)
- 4) List all the wrongs committed in verses 22-26. Who is the only person described in these verses who has not done wrong? Who is the only person who pays for these sins with the loss of life? More liberal interpreters of this text say that the sin committed here is the lack of hospitality, not the same sex desire of v. 22 nor the abuse of the woman in v. 25. Why are they wrong? What is the offer that the old man of the house makes to the worthless fellows? (v. 24) What does the Levite do to protect himself? (v. 25) What does this say about the value of people when "everyone does what is right in his own eyes"?
- 5) What does the Levite do when he discovers that his concubine is dead? (vv. 27-30) Why does he do this? Do you think that he takes any personal responsibility for what happened to her? Why or why not?
- 6) Which is the worse sin? The Levite from Bethlehem #1 (Judges 17-18) leads a weird worship cult first at a house and then for a whole tribe. The Levite from Bethlehem #2 (Judges 19-20) abandons his concubine to abusers who kill her. In what way does the thinking of the first Levite lead to the conclusion of the second Levite? How do we see kingdom building for ourselves in both stories? What are the future roles of the towns of Gibeah and Bethlehem on Israel's road to getting a king?