



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, October 10, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“A Very Strange Dance Party”

Judges 21

1. The fake holiness and a problem
(Judges 21:1-7)

2. The problem partly solved (by murder and kidnapping)
(Judges 21:8-15)

3. The rest of the problem solved (by abduction) (Judges 21:16-25)

Table Talk

- 1) What evidence do you see of fake holiness in Israel in verses 1-7? What evidence do you see of genuine lament? What is ironic about asking God why this happened? Why do people ask God the “why question” when they are simply reaping the natural consequences of their own actions? How does God’s grace at helping us escape the full consequences of our sinful actions cause us to draw wrong conclusions about the nature of sin?
- 2) What two problems does Israel have in the aftermath of the civil war? (vv. 8-15) Why does Israel think it is necessary to identify any Israelites who did not participate in the war? Why does Israel think it is necessary to kill the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead for their failure to participate? (v. 10)
- 3) Do you think that God looks with favor on the plan to use the 400 Jabesh-Gilead virgins to repopulate Benjamin? Why or why not? How would you feel if you were one of these girls, whose family and town were destroyed and now are given in marriage to a Benjaminite warrior? How is this another example of “fake holiness?” What examples of fake holiness have you observed among God’s people?
- 4) What further problem must be solved, now that 400 of the 600 Benjaminites have wives? (vv. 16-17) What does Israel do to solve this problem? (vv. 19-21) How would you feel if you were a dancing girl from Shiloh who was abducted? Do you think that God looks with favor on this plan? Why or why not? What justification does Israel give to the remaining 200 Benjaminites for this kidnapping of dancing girls? (v. 22) How would you feel if you were a brother or father of a dancing girl in this situation? How would you feel if you were an abducted dancing girl?
- 5) How do you see “fake holiness” in the justification of the abduction of the dancing girls? (vv. 22-23) Why is it so easy for us to be very keen on obedience to one set of God’s laws and very lax about others? Why is verse 25 a fitting conclusion to the book of Judges? Where do we find hope in this book of Judges? Where do we find hope for our present times?