

## Judges 19:1-28- Lacking Leadership: Sin Surges

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: What happens when leadership is weak in the nation? Let's use North America. Seventy-six percent of black children are born out of wedlock. The US has now killed more innocent people than Hitler and more Chinese people than Mao. Our Premier recently mocked home-schoolers and is forcing instruction on perversion on our children. One man who desires to be Prime Minister posed with a half-naked young woman for people to photograph him. Our leaders are spineless and let the people do whatever the people want. This was similar to what happened in Israel. There were 3 sins that were particularly noticeable with leadership lacking.

Our headings are: **Infidelity** (不忠贞) . **Inhospitality** (不好客, 冷漠) . **Inhumanity** (不人道, 无人性)

Our goals are: That **you will identify how lacking leadership causes ignorance**(无知, 愚昧), **how ignorance causes wickedness, how wickedness will destroy a church and a nation, but you see how you will be able to solve this problem.**

### Infidelity

1 And it came to pass in those days, when **there was no king in Israel**, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine (妾) from Bethlehem in Judah.

**1. See a wicked nation.** Israel had ineffective leadership by the prophets, priests, and king. And while the desire to be independent was attractive, it was destructive. Having no leadership doesn't give more freedom. (The train is freer on tracks.) Lacking leadership creates anarchy (无政府状态) . It takes away freedom. Yet in Israel there was no one to establish and enforce law. There was no **one to make atonement for sins** (献赎罪祭) . There was **no one to speak the truth.** Truth has to be taught; it doesn't come naturally. Even from the religious class, a Levite took a woman, not as a full wife, but as a concubine.

2 But his concubine **played the harlot** (行淫) **against him**, and **went away from him to her father's house** at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months. 3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.

**2. See a wicked woman.** Is it any surprise that wickedness spread to women as well? The Levite's concubine acted like a prostitute(妓女). While she could have been bitter about her position as a concubine, it did not justify adultery (奸淫) . She could not use pragmatism (实用主义) to justify sin. Having been caught and her sin exposed, she did not repent but went to her father's house. There was no one to **execute her for her adultery** – as God required.

**3. A wicked husband. After waiting for 4 months, the Levite went to plead for her to return.** Her Levite husband did not seem to think that she deserved to be executed or even punished. He did not see the seriousness of sin and guilt.

4 Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him **three days**. So they **ate and drank** and lodged there. 5 Then it came to pass on the **fourth day** that they arose early in the morning, and he stood to depart; but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way." 6 So they sat down, and the two of them **ate and drank together**. Then the young woman's father said to the man, "Please be content to stay all night, and **let your heart be merry.**" 7 And when the man stood to depart, his father-in-law urged him; so he lodged there again. 8 Then he arose early in the morning on the **fifth day** to depart, but the young woman's father said, "Please refresh your heart." So they delayed until afternoon; and both of them ate. 9 And when the man stood to depart—he and his concubine and his servant—his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, "Look, the day is now drawing toward evening; please spend the night. See, the day is coming to an end; lodge here, that your **heart may be merry. Tomorrow go your way early**, so that you may get home."

**4. A wicked father-in-law.** The Levite's father-in-law rejoiced that his son-in-law was there, but paid little mind to the sin of his daughter. Rather than encouraging justice, he selfishly pushed his son-in-law, for 5 days, to indulge in partying instead. **Delay destroys duty.** The Levite's late departure cost him his wife.

**5. Lessons: a. Faithfulness to Christ as prophet, priest, and king, is essential to the survival and thriving of his kingdom.**

Don't be drawn away by shiny human philosophies. These new philosophies move you to "what you think is good" and what satisfies your lusts. Freedom to do whatever you want is fraught with folly. Life apart from the Lord will lead to lasciviousness (淫荡, 好色) . Socialism will sink you in shame. **Do what is right in God's eyes.**

**b. Over-indulgence in sensual things – even acceptable things - undermines your duties.** There is nothing wrong in eating, or drinking, but if those things take away your energy and your duty, then they become sinful. (Note how Jesus did not stay long with the 2 men from the road to Emmaus when he went to their house for a meal.) And this is surely true for adultery. It robs you, your family, and the church because the adulteress chews you and spits you out and leaves you no good.

**c. Don't hide sins.** To do so is to work for the ruin of the guilty rather than the restoration of the guilty. Expose those sins so that there may be repentance and restoration. If you hide sins, you will not prosper. Hiding sins is evidence of hate.

## Inhospitality

10 However, the **man was not willing to spend that night**; so he rose and departed, and came to opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). With him were the two saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him. 11 **They were near Jebus, and the day was far spent**; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it." 12 But his master said to him, "**We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners**, who are not of the children of Israel; we will go on to Gibeah." 13 So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and spend the night in Gibeah or in Ramah."

**1. See a wicked foreign city in the midst of Israel.** Israel had captured this city earlier, but then lost it. It was not permanently captured till the time of David. The Levite's servant urged him to stay the night in Jerusalem, but the Levite would not take the risk of **exposing his family to this wicked city**. He decided to head to Gibeah, or possibly Ramah, cities under Israelite control. He thought he would be safer among his own people.

14 And they passed by and went their way; and the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin.

**2. As the sun went down they then entered Gibeah, a city of Benjamin.** Ramah was too far away. Being among God's people was a source of comfort to the travelers, just like if you would be if your car broke down on a lonely road and you see a car with an "ichthus" sticker. That fish would remind you that Jesus Christ, God's Son, Our Savior, was the same Jesus Christ who saved you and that you both belonged to him. You are blood brothers.

15 They turned aside there to go in to lodge in Gibeah. And when he went in, he sat down in the open square of the city, for no one would take them into his house to spend the night.

**3. But see a wicked Israelite city.** After entering, the 3 people found no place to stay. It was customary that someone would open his house to travelers, but selfishness was the natural outcome of separation from God. Matthew 25:35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

Benjamin had more reasons to be kinder than others. It was on this road that he was born by God's grace. Gen 35:16. And Israel, the whole nation, was brought from nothing, even barrenness...and established as the sun in the sky.

### Lessons:

**a. Often people only need a little.** Maybe they need a cup of water. If you don't share and cause them to suffer you rob yourself of a great blessing from God. But maybe it is a kind word, a cup of coffee, or a baby-sitter for a few hours. You see, **hospitality is not a nicety**. Hospitality is for the good of man and the glory of God. It makes strong!

**b. What about those who are far away – the persecuted – the poor – the parentless – do you care for them?**

When you chew down on your pork chops, do you remember, and set aside a little for the poor?

**c. Hospitality shows you know that what you have belongs to God, and what you are is because of Christ's work.**

## Inhumanity

16 Just then an **old man came** in from his **work in the field at evening**, who also was from the **mountains of Ephraim**; he was staying in Gibeah, whereas the men of the place were Benjamites. 17 And when he raised his eyes, he saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?" 18 So he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah toward the remote mountains of Ephraim; I am from there. I went to Bethlehem in Judah; **now I am going to the house of the LORD**. But there is no one who will take me into his house, 19 "although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man who is with your servant; there is no lack of anything." 20 And the old man said, "Peace be with you! However, **let all your needs be my responsibility**; only do not spend the night in the open square." 21 So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

**1. It took an old man to offer hospitality**... Surely this was not a rich old man. He was still working in the field. And even he was a foreigner to Benjamin. He was an Ephraimite. But like a good Christian, he was willing to give more than a cup of cold water to a stranger. He said: **Let all your wants be on me!**

22 As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, **perverted men**, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!" 23 But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage.

**2. After the Levite had some comfort for the evening, some homosexuals (同性恋者) came and threatened to harm the visitors.** (Perverted 堕落的, 变态的 men – sons of Belial – ungovernable). And look at the reason for this: Romans 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, [28] And even as they **did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 1 Corinthians 6:9 ...Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor

homosexuals, nor sodomites, (你们岂不知, 不义的人不能承受神的国吗? 不要自欺; 无论是淫乱的、拜偶像的、奸淫的、作变童的、亲男色的、) ...will inherit the kingdom of God

Jude 1:7 as Sodom and Gomorrah...having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, **suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

But this is what Benjamin should have been.

Deuteronomy 33:12 Of Benjamin he said: "The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by Him, *Who* shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders."

The old man urged them to not harm his guests. He knew that guests were to be protected, as they were vulnerable, just like God warned Israel to care for immigrants. Every civilized nation knows the duty to protect guests.

24 "Look, **here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine**; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"

**3. But sin, stemming from ignorance, had infiltrated (渗透进) Israel to the core.** Sadly, this ignorance infiltrated this old man's heart as well. He forgot his duty and offered his virgin daughter to the perverted men of the town who came to threaten his guests. To make matters worse, because of his ignorance of God's Word concerning women, he offered the Levite's concubine as well. (Maybe you get some understanding of some Muslims who use their wives and daughters as human shields to protect themselves. Or this past week 16 women were killed by Muslim terrorist because they refused to be sold as sex-slaves. There is nothing new under the sun!)

25 But the men would not heed him. **So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them.** And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go. 26 Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, **till it was light.**

**4. Seeing the men would not relent, the Levite brought his concubine to the men of the city.** And the men abused her in the worst way and killed her. (God used this great sin of the Benjamites to punish this wicked woman for her adultery. Lust was her sin; lust was her punishment.) **But what would cause a man to do what the Levite did- to turn over his wife to perverts?** First, he **protected himself at the expense of his concubine.** Second, **he did not have the same obligation to her** as she was not the same value as a wife. Instead of dying for his wife, he wanted her to die for him.

27 When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold. 28 And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

**5. Unbelievably, the Levite then called on his wife to get up and go home.** He expected that she would have done so! He expected that she would have been willing to go. But he found her dead instead. So he picked up her body, but it on the donkey and went to his home.

## **6. Lessons:**

**a. It is very easy to ignore the needs of others, or to assume that everything is good with them.** But often there are sincere needs. Take the time to ask – to investigate. The person might be right next to you today, and you need to ask them. Don't assume they don't need help. Run the risk of insulting someone who doesn't need help!

**b. Maybe you don't have people knocking on your door looking for lodging, but surely you can practice random acts of kindness.** You don't have to do everything you do for money...especially to the household of faith.

**c. Cherish your wife as Christ loved the church. Defend your daughters as they are princesses of God.**

**c. The payment for perversion is permanent punishment in perdition.**

## **Conclusion:**

Sin surged in Israel. The innocent begged the cheater to take him back. The weary travelers, blood brothers- were ignored by the wealthy. No one cared that a woman was suffering. Women weren't special enough. A man offered his daughter to abusers. Another turned over his wife to abusers. The abusers abused and killed the woman. God's law was a memory. Ignorance was on the throne. Everyone did what he wanted.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: One would think that this was written in a modern context. Marital unfaithfulness is tolerated. Children are trained to care for their own creature comforts from youth, at the expense of caring for the needy. And think of the inhumanity we are witnessing today – things that are passed into law by politicians and things that are protected by the courts – babies' bodies being cut up and sold to the highest bidder (出价者, 投标者). It should bother you and make you angry. And it should make you act, considering that these things are taking place in the church as well. You need to get the Word of God to delinquent (不尽责的, 失职的) elders and all over Canada to the lost. They need the knowledge of Christ - truth. Only by faithful preaching will the wickedness that has infiltrated the church and the country be destroyed.

Finally: No wicked person will inherit eternal life in heaven when he dies. If you are wicked (and if you aren't a Christian, you are wicked) and you want to be saved from eternity in hell, then you need to read, know, believe, and act on God's Word. You can't trust any of the standards of this world as they are all lies.