

## **Lessons from the Book of Judges**

Life lessons from the Book of Judges include the importance of a consistent, intimate relationship with God to avoid the destructive cycle of sin and its consequences, the need to trust God's power over our own weakness, and the danger of living by subjective morals ("doing what is right in your own eyes") rather than God's unchanging law. The book also teaches that God can redeem any circumstance, even the worst decisions, and that His grace is available when we acknowledge our weakness and turn to Him.

Here are some key life lessons from the Book of Judges:

### **The cycle of sin and repentance:**

The period of the judges highlights the pattern of Israel falling into sin, God allowing them to be oppressed, them crying out to God, and God raising a deliverer. This illustrates the destructive consequences of straying from God and the importance of a consistent, intentional walk with Him throughout life.

### **Dangers of self-reliance:**

The repeated phrase "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" signifies a crisis of leadership and a turning away from God's law. This is a warning against moral relativism, emphasizing that true guidance comes from God's word, not from personal opinions or societal trends.

### **God's ultimate strength and grace:**

Even though the judges often failed and Israel spiraled into chaos, God remained faithful and powerful. The story of Samson, for instance, shows that true strength comes from God, not from human abilities, and that He can redeem even the most desperate situations.

### **The need for God's authority:**

When God was rejected as the supreme authority, the nation descended into "the law of the jungle," where the strong preyed on the weak. This teaches that God's divine authority is necessary to uphold just laws and protect society, and that without it, chaos ensues.

### **Jesus as the true King:**

The book's narrative of failed human leadership points to the ultimate need for a true King. Jesus, the ultimate King and Judge, fulfills this need, offering salvation and enduring guidance to all who place their trust in His strength and grace.

### **Summary:**

Judges is a book about heroes, but many of the heroes aren't very admirable. It's as if Israel is a vat of milk and the judges are the cream. Unfortunately, the milk is going bad, and cream that rises to the top stinks a little. As judges progresses, the relationship of Israel to God is souring more and more. And the events in the final chapters show the moral climate curdling under the spoiling influences of greed and violence.

You can't ignore your relationship with God and expect your life to stay on an even keel. If you aren't going forward, you will eventually go backward with ever increasing speed.

Don't slide into a talk-show morality that characterizes so many spiritually careless people. God is always there ready to relate to you; stay in touch with him so he can guide your life.

### **For Consideration**

What Pressures today influence people to do what is right in their own eyes, not God's?

How do you think people can rise above the general moral level of their society?

How can you keep your life from following the up and down path Israel travelled in Judges?