

Studies in the book of Judges
Judges 17-18: Choose your own religion

Starter question

1. Have you ever decided to do your own thing, ignoring the rules or the system set in place by your family/school/government? How did it work out for you?

Read Judges 17:1-13

2. What do you think of:
 - a. Micah?
 - b. Micah's mother?
 - c. Micah's son?
 - d. The Levite?
3. What problems do you see with Micah's religion?
4. What would you say to Micah in response to his comment in verse 13?
5. Do you expect God to bless Micah?
6. What evidence do we have of the author of Judges' opinion on what is going on here?

Read Judges 18:1-31

7. Why are the Danites on the move, and what do you make of their conquest of Laish (see Judges 1:34)?
8. What makes the spies turn aside to Micah's house? What is ironic about this?
9. What do you think motivates the Levite (18:4)?
10. What do you think of the actions of:
 - a. The Danites (18:14-21)?
 - b. The Levite (18:18-20)?
 - c. Micah and his neighbours (18:21-23)?
11. Why is Micah upset (18:24)? Is he right to feel that way? Where had he placed his trust and hope? Where should it have been?

Reflection

12. What have you learnt from these chapters about what God is like?
13. What have you learnt about the underlying reasons for Israel's constant idolatry?
14. How do you think Christians can be tempted to think they are guaranteed God's blessing by some external ritual or form?
15. How are Christians, in fact, guaranteed God's blessing?
16. Are Christians completely immune from falling into idolatry and faithlessness? (see Ephesians 5:5-6)