

Remember the Great Works of God – The World is in Chaos

Judges 19

1. Intro
2. Quick Summary of the chapter
3. Focus: there are many surprises, unpredictable challenges in life. We got to remind ourselves and not follow the way the three main characters' ways of handling things.
 - a. Protective father protecting his daughter ended up harming his daughter.
 - When the concubine unfaithful towards her husband, her father should guide and educate her. At least to teach her about being faithful. Instead, because of his love for his daughter, he spoiled her by keeping her in his home.
 - When the Levite came and speak kindly to her, the father didn't ask her to apologize to her husband but instead thinking the wrong had passed. The father tried many ways to keep them with him, as a result, delaying their leaving time for their journey.
 - If they were able to leave earlier, the tragedy might not happen.
 - Application:
 - In a way, Christians are like non-Christians that we all sinned against God and sinned against people. When Christians sin, can we focus on solving the problem or we may think that since no one knows and we don't take any action but move on? Or can we follow God's will of dealing with sin which is to confess our sins and repent with God's help?
 - For example: If one who is Christian acts differently among non-Christians, afraid of being rejected, afterward, pretend there is nothing wrong, then one doesn't understand sometimes being Christian has a cost.
 - If one knows that one had sin, but cannot face their sin and confess to God and repent, then one is living in a lie. That person is missing out an opportunity to witness God's transformative power and freedom and a faith-developing lesson.
 - If parents really want to support their children and build up their character, then parents need to help them to find out what's causing the destructive behaviour. Of course, all parents love their children and though love and support are often limited, sometimes because of our good intention, we hamper our kids' healthy growth. Similarly, to the story's father, he wanted to keep his daughter longer, in exchange, he never was able to see his daughter again.
 - b. Trusting concubine trusting her husband failed her and ended up harming herself.
 - The Concubine was being unfaithful when her husband came and speak her to kindly and try to bring her back. She turned back to her husband. We can see that she is very trusting of her husband. She doesn't think about how would she be treated if she follows him home. From the story, we can see that her trust towards her husband failed her. When her husband faced danger, he seized his concubine and made her go out to face the danger, we can see how much he loved her. Not very much.
 - When the Levite came from Ephraim to Bethlehem to bring back his concubine, he brought two donkeys. One for himself and one for his concubine for when he brings her home.

- At the beginning of the book of Judges, we saw a woman named Acsah came to Othniel one of the judges and asked him how he plans to support the family. Acsah even asked her father for a field and springs of water to help her husband.
 - There is a strong contrast between the beginning of the book of Judges and when it comes to the end of the book.
 - At the beginning of the book, a woman riding a donkey, getting ready to create a family with her husband. When the book of Judges came to an end, we saw a dead woman was put on a donkey by her husband because of family misfortune. Both women want to find happiness in marriage, safety, blessings, someone they can trust, and spend the rest of their life with, but their outcomes are night and day. Both women rode on a donkey, Othniel's wife and Othniel joined together to build a family, but the Levite's concubine was dead on a donkey making a statement as if she was making an accusation to her husband that he was a disappointment. Her trust towards her failed her in the end.
- c. The husband who worked hard on the marriage ended up harming his wife.
- "As morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, until it was light." v. 26
 - Notice the language used here. It's no longer her husband but her master.
 - The Levite treated his concubine as an object that he possessed, not a real person.
 - "And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold." v. 27
 - Maybe the Levite slept very well that he forgot his concubine being tortured outside.
 - "He said to her, "Get up, let us be going."" v. 28
 - The Levite acted as if nothing happened. He might be thinking since the wrong had done, let's move on. He only thought about continuing his journey.

⇒ All three persons: The father of the concubine; the concubine and the Levite acted out what seemed fit in their own eyes.

⇒ It is natural that in situation like this we would ask the questions where was God? Why God didn't intervene?

⇒ An illustration: A bird was hurt would struggle to be free when someone tried to help it because the bird did not know the person. Eventually, the person would let go of the bird too.

⇒ In contrast, a child who faces a needle in the clinic will also struggle and but since the child knows that the father loves the child, the child will draw close to the father. The father will also draw close to the child.

⇒ Similarly, when we faced problems, do we struggle like the bird was hurt, try to be free and think that we can solve our sin problems or do we like the child who holds tight to the father, hoping the father would draw close to as well in times of challenge?

⇒ When we face challenges, do we draw close to God or run away from God and use our own ways to solve our problem?

⇒ The world is in chaos, but there is hope.

1. Not that Israel or the church will get it right, but even we have proven how faithless we are, God still wouldn't give up on us.

2. When things couldn't get any worse, the story is not over. Just like the story didn't end at Judges 19. God is still in control and he has a plan.

3. God is still trying, again and again, to use faithless and disobedient people to accomplish his purpose. That's grace.

The world is in chaos and everyone did what they think fit in their eyes. The lesson, the call, and the warning are calling us to repent and come back to the grace of God. We are to live a life that is "more of God and less of us".

Question:

1. How does this message apply to your life?
2. What is God speaking to you today?
3. Can you name some of the frustration you are experiencing of the world today?
4. What's God calling you to pray about the world today?