

Judges 17-21 Homegroup questions

Phil Bailey

Theme: Without knowledge of God or a godly (human) king, Israel descended into spiritual and moral anarchy, becoming as wicked as the surrounding nations and failing in their calling as a kingdom of priests and holy nation.

Aims:

- See the desperate need for a godly (and divine) king!
- Rejoice that we have such a king, but recognise that we must submit to him as king, not just rely on him as saviour, or we too will fail in our calling (1 Peter 2:9).
- Have hope that Jesus can change us and will bring justice and healing for every evil done by or to his people (Rev 21:1-4).

Questions:

- 1) We saw in the sermon that Israel's spiritual anarchy (e.g. ch.17) led to moral anarchy (e.g. ch.19). As they forgot God's surpassing glory and worth, they stopped worshipping him as he deserved and commanded in his law. Then they forgot the dignity and worth of his image bearers, and stopped treating each other as they deserved and as the law commanded.

Where do we see these same tendencies in ourselves and a church like ours?

- 2) How does the gospel give hope that we are not destined to stay as Israel was – or as the church often is? (You might like to look up Philippians 1:6, which was mentioned in the sermon, and 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- 3) How does the gospel offer hope when we have experienced injustice or abuse in the church? (You might like to reflect on Revelation 21:1-4)
- 4) We have the perfect king in Jesus, but we must still *choose* to submit to him, if we are to fulfil our calling as a royal priesthood and holy nation (1 Peter 2:9).

Where do you find it hardest to submit to Jesus as king today?

What about his character helps us to trust and submit to him more?

(You might like to reflect on Matthew 11:28-30 and 2 Corinthians 12:9. When we *fully* trust Jesus and take on his yoke, his strength will be sufficient to help us carry it and we will find it easy and light. That doesn't mean we'll never struggle with looking and longing for other things again. But we'll increasingly discover that our souls can be at rest in his service, while they can only ever be enslaved by earthly masters and idols, which never leave us satisfied)