

Falling from Faithfulness: The Book of Judges

Gideon and Midian

Main Idea: There is God's way and all the rest

There is God's way to respond to sin ...

There is God's way to perceive people and situations ...

There is God's way to worship ...

God's way is THE way!

Judges 6 ESV

2 Possible Responses: Regret or Repentance – Judges 6:1-10

- There is God's way in terms of how we should respond to sin
- **Tim Keller:**

"God sends the prophet to convict of sin before he sends the judge to rescue from oppression because the people are regretful, but not repentant. The Bible makes a clear distinction between the two: "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). Both are characterized by very deep sorrow and distress. But they are completely different. First, "worldly" sorrow or regret does not produce any real change, while repentance does. Why? Regret is sorrow over the consequences of a sin, but not over the sin itself. If there had been no consequences, there would have been no sorrow. There is no sorrow over the sin for what it is in itself, for how it grieves God and violates our relationship with him. The focus is all horizontal—"worldly"—and not at all vertical—concerned about how it affects relationship with God. Therefore, as soon as the consequences go away, the behavior comes back. The heart has not become disgusted with the sin itself, so the sin remains rooted. Second, "worldly" sorrow stays regretful, while repentance removes all regret about the past. Why? Real repentance comes to focus on the only real, permanent result of sin—the "loss" of the Lord. Repentance always makes us more able to accept and "move past" the things that happened. When we realize that God has forgiven us and we haven't "lost" him, we feel that earthly results are rather small in comparison. We say: I deserved far worse than what happened. The real punishment fell on Jesus, and will never come to me. After real repentance and restoration to God, we do not hate ourselves, and we do not hate our lives. When someone is inconsolable, it means they have made something besides God their real god and savior (eg: money, friends, career, family). It is an idol, and its loss is therefore impossible to heal without repudiating it as an idol."

2 Disagreements: A Matter of Perspective – Judges 6:11-18

- There is God's perspective on people and situations and our way of seeing things
- God's perspective is determined by God's words!

2 Altars: Breaking and Building – Judges 6:19-32

- This section demonstrates that there is God's way of worshipping and all other ways
 - 1) The first altar indicates that worship is only to be directed towards Yahweh
 - 2) The second altar indicates that worship is never to be directed to anyone or anything except God

2 Tests: God's Promises – Judges 6:33-40

- This last section declares that God's way is sure, true, and good
- God has already promised Gideon his favour and his presence
- Should we set fleeces before God?
 - It is popular in some Christian circles to try and emulate Gideon's actions as a way to ascertain the will of God and find guidance for one's life
 - Should I ask her to marry me?
 - This is silliness at best, and dangerous and depraved at worst.
 - This is not even close to what Gideon was doing
- Gideon's was a request for confirmation of God's promise, not a search for guidance.