

# Saying “God is King” — but Living Like We Are - Judges Pt 08

★ 300 vs 135,000, now 300 are chasing 15,000 and wrapping up.. **God did it so they would KNOW HIM**  
Sad ending- they forgot the LORD and worshiped “master of the covenant” Baal-Berith  
Judges 8:33 As soon as Gideon died, the Israelites **prostituted** themselves by worshiping the images of Baal, making **Baal-berith** their god. 34 They **forgot the LORD** their God, **who had rescued them** from all their enemies surrounding them.

Who Will Rule Over You? - they forgot the LORD was the one who rescued them

22 Then the Israelites said to Gideon, “**Be our ruler!** You and your son and your grandson will be our rulers, **for you have rescued us from Midian.**” 23 But Gideon replied, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son. **The LORD will rule over you!** Ephraim upset not chosen, forgot God picked the army, Succoth and Peniel no bread forgot God was fighting

Gideon - SAID the LORD is ruler, but in his heart he pursued kingly ways

.....**He asked for tribute** 26 And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the **crescent ornaments** and the **pendants** and the **purple garments worn by the kings of Midian**, and besides the **collars** that were around the necks of their camels.”

- 43 lbs of gold \$1.625.000 (July 7) --- Pendants, purple garments & collars = status wealth royalty

.....**led to idolatry** 27 Gideon made a sacred ephod from the gold and put it in Ophrah, his hometown. But soon all the **Israelites prostituted themselves by worshiping it**, and it became a trap for Gideon and his family.

.....**like a king many wives** 30 He had seventy sons born to him, for he had many wives....31 He also had a concubine in Shechem, who gave birth to a son, whom he named **Abimelech**

★ **LIKE GIDEON WE CAN VERBALLY HONOR THE LORD WHILE IN ACTION DO WHAT WE WANT**

Abimelech “make me a king” a grasp for power, not even considering the LORD

**Abimelech...name means”my father is king” is simply a grasp for power**

- Jdg 9:2 “Asked the leading citizens of Shechem **whether they want to be ruled by all seventy of Gideon’s sons or by one man.** And remember that I am your own flesh and blood!”

**Jotham the youngest escapes the murder and predicts a curse on them - a curse of mutual destruction**

- 20 may fire come out from Abimelech and devour the leading citizens of Shechem and Beth-millo; and may fire come out from the citizens of Shechem and Beth-millo and devour Abimelech!”

★ **LIKE ABIMELECH WE CAN SIMPLY DISREGARD THE LORD AND DO WHAT WE WANT**

Ultimately God is the ruler - whether we acknowledge it or not -even over Abimelech

- After 3 years..... 23 God sent a spirit that stirred up trouble between Abimelech and the leading citizens of Shechem, and they revolted. 24 **God was punishing Abimelech for murdering Gideon’s seventy sons, and the citizens of Shechem for supporting him in this treachery of murdering his brothers.**
- Abimelech burned 1000 people in a tower...in the next town a woman dropped a millstone on his head
- 56 **In this way, God punished Abimelech for the evil he had done against his father by murdering his seventy brothers. 57 God also punished the men of Shechem for all their evil. So the curse of Jotham son of Gideon was fulfilled.**

Who rules your heart, you or Jesus? Our choice often begins by forgetting Him

2Co 5:15 NLT **He died for everyone** so that **those who receive** his new life **will no longer live for themselves.** Instead, **they will live for Christ**, who died and was raised for them.

★ Don’t Forget the LORD, Gideon...let our commitment to Jesus be more than verbal, Abimelech...let us always regard the will of God above our own