

Choices and Their Consequences Judges Pt 09

How could we be so blind?

Jdg 10:6-7 NLT Again the Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight. They served the images of Baal and Ashtoreth, and the gods of Aram, Sidon, Moab, Ammon, and Philistia. **They abandoned the LORD and no longer served him at all.**

- → promised rain, crops, fertility, prostitution → a huge cost on human life → child/human sacrifice
- Chased false gods for thrills and promises, its the same with seed among thorns, chokes life out
 - Mark 4:18–19 And others **[seeds]** are the ones sown among thorns. These are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

The LORD lets us feel the weight of our choices (their choice carried a consequence)

7 **So the LORD** burned with anger against Israel, and he **turned them over** to the Philistines and the Ammonites,.....(18 yrs of brutal oppression (gouging eyes out, ripping babies out of wombs))

What about grace? - GRACE is real, but it is also true The LORD treats us the way we treat others

In the parable, a master forgave a huge debt but was angry when that forgiven servant refused to forgive a small debt of his fellow.....Mat 18:34-35 NLT Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. 35 "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

- Psa 18:25-27 NLT To the faithful you show yourself faithful; to those with integrity you show integrity. 26 To the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd. 27 You rescue the humble, but you humiliate the proud.
- Matt 5:7 - God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

The LORD responds repentance

Jdg 10:10-16 NLT Finally, **they cried out** to the LORD for help, saying, "**We have sinned** against you because we have abandoned you as our God and have served the images of Baal." 11 The LORD replied, "Did I not rescue you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, 12 the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites? **When they oppressed you, you cried out to me for help, and I rescued you.** 13 Yet you have abandoned me and served other gods. **So I will not rescue you anymore.** 14 **Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen!** Let them rescue you in your hour of distress!" 15 But the Israelites pleaded with the LORD and said, "**We have sinned. Punish us as you see fit, only rescue us today from our enemies.**" 16 **Then the Israelites put aside their foreign gods and served the LORD.** And he was grieved by their misery.

- 2Co 7:10 NLT For **the kind of sorrow God wants** us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But **worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance**, results in spiritual death.

The LORD responds to repentance (not confession, or sorrow alone) **Confession** is admitting we were wrong. **Sorrow** is feeling bad about it. **Repentance** is actually taking a step, turning away from sin and turning toward God, shown by changed direction and actions.

- **Acts 3:19** – Repent therefore, and **turn back**, that your **sins may be blotted out**.
- **Isa 55:6–7** – Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked **forsake his way**, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him **return to the LORD**, that he may have **compassion** on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly **pardon**.

SUMMARY - Choices have consequences...we get in trouble because we see blessing not thorn, repentance