

Date: April 27, 2025

Series: Judges: Mankind Exposed

Title: A Little Sin Goes a Long Way!

Text: Judges 12



INTRODUCTION

Note: All these imperfect judges and rescuers are meant to foreshadow and point to the Perfect Rescuer, the One who saves us completely and eternally, Jesus Christ!

“For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.” (James 3:2)

I. THE PLAGUE OF PRIDE

Judges 12:1 -

1) The Tribe of Ephraim was plagued by pride, and their pride revealed itself through their angry words and through their desire for glory, recognition, and prominence.

*“...for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”
(John 12:43)*

Judges 12:2-6 -

2) A little sin (pride, anger, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, etc.) goes a long way! But God calls us to something so much better; God calls us to humbly pursue peace!

(Proverbs 15:1, 4; 17:14, 27; 20:22; Luke 17:3-4; Rom. 13:8-10; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:3-11)

*“...God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”
(Romans 5:5b-6)*

II. NOT ANOTHER BORING OBITUARY

Judges 12:7-15 -

About these Men: They all died, they were all replaceable, and they all needed something that only God can provide!

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 6:23)*

*“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”
(John 10:17-18)*

About the Bible: The Bible doesn't exist to satisfy our curiosities about all God's servants; the Bible exists to glorify God, to reveal God, to proclaim His gracious work in and through Jesus!

*“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life.”
(John 5:39-40)*

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why were the men of Ephraim so angry with Jephthah? How did Jephthah respond?
2. What is the right way to deal with pride and selfish anger? How can we practically pursue peace?
3. In what ways are you tempted to “live for yourself” and to “seek your own glory”?
4. What are the recurring themes/ideas from verses 7-15? What does this teach us about ourselves?
5. How do verses 7-15 remind us of the big, overall purpose of Scripture?