

Judges 21

Judges 21.1-4

V1 – What vow had the men of Israel made about Benjamin? Not to let any of their daughters marry men from Benjamin

V2 – What did the people do? Wept before God

V3 – What were they upset about? An entire tribe had almost been destroyed

V4 – People made an altar to God

Judges 21.5-7

V5 – What other vow had they made? Any men who did not come out to fight Benjamin would be killed

V6 – They were very sad that the tribe of Benjamin was almost destroyed

V7 – **The problem?** Where to find wives for the 600 men who were left (since everyone who had gone into battle had sworn not to give their daughters in marriage to the men of Benjamin)

Judges 21.8-12

V8 – What group men had not shown up to fight Benjamin? The men of Jabesh-gilead (east of the Jordan River)

V9 – They took a survey – no-one from Jabesh-gilead had shown up

V10 – **Their orders:** Send 12,000 men to kill the people of Jabesh-gilead (with one exception)

V11 – **Who was to be killed?** All men, and the women who had sexual relations

V12 – **How many virgins were left?** 400

Judges 21.13-15

V13 – What message was taken to the men of Benjamin who were at the Rock of Rimmon?
-a message of peace

V14 – The 400 virgin women were given to the 600 men from Benjamin

V15 – They all felt sorry for the men of Benjamin

Judges 21.16-18

V 16 – Remaining problem? More wives were needed for the men of Benjamin

V 17 – They were searching for another "loophole" to help the tribe of Benjamin

V 18 – They went over the vow again

Judges 21.19-25

V 19 – They remembered an annual feast at Shiloh (the tribe of Ephraim)

V 20 – What did they tell the men of Benjamin? To hide outside the feast

V 21 – What were they supposed to do? Each man would "kidnap" a young lady and take her to the tribe of Benjamin as a wife

V 22 – They were not technically "giving" their daughters to Benjamin – rather, the daughters were being "kidnaped" - another loophole
-Thus the men would not be guilty of violating the oath

V 23 – The men of Benjamin did this and rebuilt the tribe

V 24 – The tribes dispersed and went home

V 25 – Again: a statement of the theme of this book

Lesson from this book:

When people do what they think is right, the results will be disastrous.

-An entire tribe was almost wiped out (remember that King Saul and the Apostle Paul came from this tribe)

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