Murray Baptist Church – 1/12/21 – Bible Study Outline – Judges 19

**Judges 19 – A Levite and His Concubine**

Judges 19-21 continue the gruesome examples of flawed logic: “In those days Israel had ho king, everyone did as they saw fit.” (Judges 17:6, 21:25). It is in these days that we come to understand the need for Israel to have judges and then kings to lead them.

v.1 – This the second Levite in the past few chapters who finds himself living in Ephraim, far away from the land they have been given as an inheritance. He is living there with his concubine.

Concubine – a woman acquired by a man as a secondary wife. In the case that the wife was barren, he role was to provide a male heir to additional children in general to enhance the family’s workforce and wealth. Concubines had rights and protections by Hebrew law but was not equal to the status of a wife.

v.2 – the concubine was unfaithful to the Levite and went back to live with her parents.

Vs 3-10 – this set of verses documents how the concubine’s father tries to get the Levite to stay with them and it works for five days but the Levite is ready to go back home. Now we don’t know what the circumstances were that led to his concubine’s unfaithfulness nor what will be different when they get back to Ephraim. She will once again be away from her family and will not be the “wife.”

* The Levite comes to find her after 4 months
* He brings two donkeys, so he doesn’t intend for her to walk back with him
* Her parents seem to like him, but they don’t want him to leave

Vs.11-21- An Unfriendly Town

* After leaving Bethlehem, the Levite determines not to stop in a city unless the inhabitants are Israelites so they head toward Gibeah (vs. 12-14). That is an important note because not all of the original inhabitants have been driven out of the land yet.
* In the Jewish culture it was customary for a Jewish visitor to wait in central location with the expectation of receiving some form of hospitality. In this case however, hospitality was not initially offered (v.15).
* An elder from the same town where the Levite lives offers them a place to stay for the night and warns them not to spend the night in the town square (that a tip off that the elder man knows it is unsafe for the visitor. The man takes them in and provided for the animals and got the people cleaned up.

Vs. 22-30 – Evil Comes Knocking

* It is after the visitors got settled that the issues that the elder man was concerned about in the square, came calling at his door.
* v.22 Wicked men surrounded the house, pounded on the door and demanded the old men send the Levite out so they can have sex with him
* The list of unbelievable things grows
  + The older man offers his virgin daughter and his visitor’s concubine to the men instead of the male visitor (the value of a woman was less than that of a man). He told them they could do what they wished.
  + The Levite pushes his concubine out to the men, but the elderly man never offered his daughter to the men. One minute he is wining his concubine back and the next he willingly sacrifices her to save his own life.
  + The men raped and abused the concubine throughout the night
  + The Levite was getting ready to leave when he found his concubine in the doorway as he tried to exit.
  + The Levite tells her to get up, gets no response so he puts her on his donkey and headed for his house
  + The Levite gets home and dismembers his concubine’s body into 12 parts and sends a body part to each tribe of Israel with the purpose of calling attention to the horrible acts that occurred among God’s people. Remember this happened in Gibeah, not Jebus.