Murray Baptist Church – 1/5/21 – Bible Study Outline – Judges 18

**Judges 18 – The Danites Look for Land**

Chapter 18 begins with the tribe of Dan known as the Danites looking for a place to settle. When the Israelites first conquered Canaan, the promised land, they were given an area between Ephraim and Judah to live. However, they never took complete control of the territory and the tribes on either side of them were stronger so they decided to relocate. We enter the story as they sent out five scouts to check out the land where Micah was living and stayed at his house (see vs 1-2).

Vs. 3-6

* The Danites recognize the voice or accent of the Levite priest and ask him how he got to Micah’s house.
* The priest shares the story and the Danite scouts ask the priest to inquire of the Lord in regard to the success of their journey.

Vs. 7-10

* The priest approved their purpose and the men scout out the land.
* They notice people in the land lived independently and didn’t deal with others and had no one ruling over them. Their closest allies, the Sidonians, were not close geographically. The Danite scouts also noticed that the land was large and had everything they needed and the people were comfortable and not prepared for an attack.
* The scouts encourage the leaders to take control of the land.

Vs. 11-26

* 600 men from Dan armed themselves for battle and set out for Ephraim and Micah’s house.
* The 5 spies tell the men about the religious articles in the house including the idol. They go in the house, collect all of the items – the priest tried to stop them but they made him an offer to become their priest – “it is better to serve a tribe and a clan the just one man’s household (v. 19). The priest agreed and leaves with the Danites.
* Some local men and friends of Micah tried to stop the Danites but after being threatened they stopped following the Danites. It is implied that the Danites also took some of Micah’s family.

Vs. 27-31

* The Danites went to Laish with the items taken from Micah, and the priest.
* They attacked and burned down the city because they the Sidonians were too far away.
* They Danites rebuilt the city and called it Dan after their ancestors
* They set up the idol that had been taken from Micah’s house and the grandson of Moses named Jonathan and his sons were the priests of Dan
* They continued to worship the idol of Micah even though the house of God, the place of God’s presence was in Shiloh. The Danites had a priest but were not close to God.

Study Questions:

1. What practices characterized a false prophet (see 1 Kings 1-14; Jeremiah 23:33-40; Nehemiah 6:12-14 )?
2. Read Jude 4, 1 John 4:1-6 and 1 Timothy 4:1-3 and identify the hallmarks of a false teacher.
3. Describe some of the false teaching that circulates in the church today. How does it conflict with the Word of God?
4. Do you think Christians are discerning enough? How can we be discerning without being overly suspicious of everyone?