Murray Baptist Church – 11/24/20 – Bible Study Outline – Judges

**Judges 10**

We are given a great amount of detail about the leadership of Deborah or the strategy of Gideon. We are even given a of detail about Abimelek who positioned himself as a king but whose actions became corrupt and he was eventually killed. On the other side of things are other judges who names we barely know because details are not provided yet their success in ushering in a peaceful time for the people of Israel has been noted.

Remember that a time of peace or references to the duration of time a judge ruled corresponded with Spiritual alignment. Why do I believe that? It is only when God mentions that the “people did evil in the sight of the Lord” that we see the Israelites worshipping and serving other gods. Chapter 10 opens with brief introductions and summaries of two judges – Tola and Jair.

Vs. 1-5

Tola

* From the Tribe of Issachar
* Lived in the hill country of Ephraim
* Led Israel for 23 years

Jair

* From Gilead, the Tribe is not mentioned
* Led Israel for 22 years
* Had 30 sons, they were known for riding donkeys

In five verse of the Bible we learn very little about two men who judged Israel for 45 years. We know more about where they were buried than we do about how they led Israel. What will you be remembered for at the end of your life? Will there be anything that stands out that was distinctive about you?

Vs. 6 – The Same Old / Same Old (the same thing just a different day) – The ever-declining cycle of Israel

* the Israelites “did evil in the eyes of the Lord”
* Served multiple Gods (Baals, Ashtoreths, gods of Aram, gods of Sidon, gods of Moab, gods of the Ammonites, gods of the Philistines). Through interactions with those gods – the people forsook the Lord. They no longer served him.

Vs. 7-8– Gods anger leads to the Israelites being overtaken by the Philistines and the Ammonites who abused them that year. They oppressed them for 18 years on the east side of the Jordan.

Vs. 9-10 – On the west side, the Ammonites were causing great distress against Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim and as a result the Israelites cry out to God and admit their specific sin (we have sinned you; we forsook you; we served the Baals)

Vs. 11-14 – God responds

* Didn’t I save you in the past from your oppressors?
* Because you’ve forsaken me and served other gods, I will no longer save you
* Cry out to your idols when you are in trouble

Vs. 15-16 – The Israelite respond

* We’ve sinned, do to us what you want, but we need you to rescue us (words)
* The Israelites got rid of the foreign gods and served the Lord (actions). They removed and replaced – God responded.
* Difference between vs. 11-14 and 15-16? The Israelites in vs. 15-16 were repentant. In vs. 11-14 they were sorry for the consequences of their actions but not for the actions themselves. In vs. 15-16. Their actions changed. God is no longer going to deliver them until they recognized his right to rule over their lives. It’s your will or His will. Actions speak louder than words!

V. 17-18 – Renewed focus, additional options

* When the Ammonites reinforce their position in Gilead, the Israelites call a meeting in Mizpah to discuss a plan of attack
* Whoever takes the lead in the battle will be the leader over the people in Gilead