

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM MARCH 23, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Judges 18:30-31

“The sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. So they set up for themselves Micah’s graven image which he had made, all the time that the house of God was at Shiloh.”



The subject matter of the Book of Judges can be very difficult for our generation to study. Many want a technical commentary to simply explain the tradition and history of this book in hopes of finding the background of ancient Israel. They avoid wrestling with the text, having chosen to be distracted with the possibility of a textual problems or reading into the Hebrew idioms so they do not have to hear the clear teaching of the text. The question we need to ask ourselves is why are we so afraid of the Book of Judges?

Since I have found so few Christian teachers who have willingly attempted this task, forgive me if I step on a few toes. The general theme of this book is God’s dealing with false religion. On one hand, we can intellectually agree that God would be upset with false religion and with so many warnings in the preceding books of the Pentateuch and Joshua; we jump on the band wagon and condemn Israel for surely they should have known how stupid false worship is and where it leads.

Do not pat yourself on the back and think how wise you are to see the failure of the Israelites. We are afraid of the Book of Judges because we do not want to see the stupidity of our own false religion. We may not make molten idols but how different are we than Micah, who thought he had the favor of Yahweh because he had an actual Levite as his priest? We have our own forms of such “magic.” For example, by thinking a child is a member of the kingdom because they were baptized as an infant or because they went forward while they were at youth camp. The person who assumes they have entered the kingdom of God because they completed a task is engaging in a false religion and that is just stupid. It does not differ from Micah’s religion in principle or form, only in the details. So our folly remains invisible to us.

We have traded idol worship for subjectivism, but it is still a false religion. The people of Dan made their own convenience store of worship where they could remain in control and worship how and when they chose. They were convinced God was not picky when it came to glory, honor and praise. Modern day Danites tell us worship is an individual affair, and like our toothbrush, a very personal thing. When they come to worship it is not Yahweh, the all powerful saving God they praise. Instead, they want a blob of molten silver that they can squeeze and shape the way they want God to be. And that is self-serving idolatry, unworthy to be called worship.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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MARCH 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

March 2014

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

He Leadeth Me

“He leadeth me beside still waters, He restoreth my soul.”

Psalm 23:1-3

Text: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/h/l/e/hleademe.htm>

Music: http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/h/e/l/he_leadeth_me_gilmore.mid

Words: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862.

He leadeth me, O blessed
thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort
fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth
me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth
me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of
deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's
bowers bloom,
By waters still, over troubled
sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth
me.

Refrain

Lord, I would place my hand in
Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth
me.

Refrain

And when my task on earth is
done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's
won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not
flee,
Since God through Jordan
leadeth me.

Refrain



Joseph H. Gilmore
(1834-1918)

Music: William B. Bradbury,
Golden Censer (New York: 1864)



William B. Bradbury
(1816-1868)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

March 2014

- March 16 8:45 a.m. *Doing What is Right In Your Own Eyes*
Judges 17-18
10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home
- March 21 7:00 p.m. Game Night
- March 23 8:45 a.m. *Israel's Sodom & Gomorrah* Judges 19-21
10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- March 25 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home
- March 28 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship

The Cost of Discipleship

Chinese missionaries organize

Christian Faith and Legal Training Camp

CHINA AID ASSOCIATION • WWW.CHINAID.ORG • WWW.MONITORCHINA.ORG

(Beijing—March 13, 2014) A series of training seminars, titled Chinese Christian Faith and Legal Training Camp, has been ongoing since the beginning of the year in several provinces across China.

The seminars, which aim to teach Christians how to defend their religious rights in accordance with the law, are led by Chinese missionary Bo Ai, who has been traveling to Chinese house churches all over the county, with special focus on remote, rural areas, for the past 10 years.

Christians who have completed training sessions have said they have a relatively complete understanding of the Chinese laws and regulations that govern religious freedom. Also, Church leaders who have taken part report learning how to protect the various legitimate rights of the church as a whole.

After such seminars, believer involved typically express gratitude for the training, no matter how intense or time-consuming, as they say they feel better equipped to handle persecution from local government departments against their church. Many also report leaving the seminars feeling more determined in their faith.

Liaoning: In the southeastern portion of China's northeastern Liaoning province, more than 80 believers, including leaders of the various church branches, seminary students and leaders of other local church attended the training session.

Heilongjiang: In the far northeastern Heilongjiang province a session took place in the town of Shanquan in Longjiang County. More than 150 local church staff attended. The church has more than 3,000 members and 45 branches.

Jiangxi: In February, a training session took place in Xiushui County, in China's inland Jiangxi province. Since it was founded more than 80 years ago the congregation has reached approximately half a million.

Hubei: In Danjiangkou, Shiyan, in the central province of Hubei, more than 80 church members and staff from other local churches attended the training session. The church, which was founded in the 1980s, has faced harassment as recently as November. The training seminars are scheduled to continue throughout the year, hitting hard in rural and low-income areas of the country.