

Judges 19: Spiritual Decline into Immorality

Getting started: What are some telltale signs that a person does not wish to have God or his morality in his life?

Read 19:1-10

Personal Immorality

1. What tribe did the man from the mountains of Ephraim belong to? What had he acquired in Bethlehem? What did she do to him? (vv. 1-2) Why might the author have brought this man's immorality to our attention?
2. How was the Levite received when he went to Bethlehem to retrieve her? (vv. 3-4) What did her father do when he tried to leave with his concubine on day four? And again on day five when the man wanted to leave? (vv. 5-8)
3. What did the young man refuse to do? Who was with the man when he departed? What was strange or unnatural about his departure? (vv. 9-10).

Read 19:11-30

Tribal Immorality

4. Where did the servant suggest they lodge? Where did the Levite insist they go? (vv. 11-12) What reason is given for pressing on to this further city? (vv. 13-14)

5. Where did the travelers intend to bunk down for the night? Who inquired of the travelers? What did the travelers reveal about the city's hospitality? (vv. 15-19)
6. What did the man insist they do? How did he care for them? (vv. 20-21)
7. Who interrupted their meal? What did they ask the man of the house to do for them? (v. 22)
8. Why did the man refuse their request? What did he offer them instead of his guests? What is wrong with this suggestion? (vv. 23-24) What did the men do with the concubine? (v. 25)
9. Where did the Levite find his concubine? (vv. 26-27) What did he ask her to do? When she gave no response, what did he do? (v. 28)
10. What did he do to the woman when he got home? (v. 29) How was the message received? (v. 30) What did the Israelite tribes do next? (20:1)

Going Deeper

11. This chapter speaks of immorality: the immorality of a Levite having a concubine and of a tribe seeking homosexuality but then participating in gang rape. What kind of sin preceded these sexual sins? (17:4; 18:20, 31). Explain how spiritual infidelity and sexual immorality are intertwined. (c.f. Judges 2:17; 1 Sam. 2:22-25; Numbers 25:1-3; Hosea 4:12-13)