

## SOCIETY'S MORAL BREAKDOWN

--JUDGES 19:1-30--

### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we turn back to the book of Judges and enter into the last three chapters of the book which gives us Israel's lowest point in their descent into becoming like the Canaanites that they had not driven from the land. I believe these last three chapters of this book are the most horrific and at the same time the saddest commentary on what happens when we turn away from God to worship something or someone else. In chapters 17 and 18 we saw how idolatry had become the norm in the land as the sons of Israel continually did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and it is no accident, that the history of Israel's idolatry is followed by the history of their immorality. Only God, the creator of the world and everything in it, including each one of us, has the absolute right to tell us how to live our lives. But once we displace Him from His rightful place in our lives and allow other things to take His place, we move away from the only One who can give moral stability to our lives. Suddenly everyone does what is right in his own eyes and the result is moral chaos. Idolatry and immorality go hand in hand, where you have one, you also, sooner or later have the other.

### I. MARRIAGE BREAKDOWN (Judges 19:1-2)

- a. *Now it came about in those days, when there was no \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel...* (Judges 19:1a, NASB95)
- b. After introducing this new section, we are introduced to the main character, another \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Concubines do not have the same status as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. We do not know how long this concubine was with the Levite but in verse 2 we are told that his concubine played the \_\_\_\_\_ against him.

### II. MENDING THE RELATIONSHIP (Judges 19:3-9)

- a. This woman remained at her father's house for \_\_\_\_\_ months.
- b. The way he is \_\_\_\_\_ on his arrival at the house of the concubine's father suggests that both the concubine and her

father are eager for reconciliation instead of confrontation.

### III. MOVING TOWARD HOME (Judges 19:10-21)

- a. The Levite was determined to \_\_\_\_\_ and set off in the afternoon with his two donkeys, his concubine, and his servant.
- b. They enter the city and stop at the city square waiting for someone to show them \_\_\_\_\_ and invite them into their home for the night.

### IV. MORAL OUTRAGE (Judges 19:22-30)

- a. Having \_\_\_\_\_ from the square to the old man's home they settle in for the evening.
- b. Like the Sodom account the old man goes out to \_\_\_\_\_ with the men and pleads with them not to act so wickedly as this man has come into the protection of his house.
- c. Notice that the men of Gibeah are only interested in the \_\_\_\_\_, they are not interested in the host, or the Levite's servant or concubine.
- d. The men of Gibeah did not accept the old man's \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Morning finds the Levite emerging from the host's house to \_\_\_\_\_ his journey home.
- f. At this point we see how indifferent and \_\_\_\_\_ this Levite is toward his concubine, no wonder she left and returned home.

### CONCLUSION:

How do we respond to this chapter, is there anything that we can take away? I believe it raises more questions, than answers. What we see in this chapter is that Israel has sunk to the level of the nations whom they were commanded to destroy and on whom the judgment of God hung. Moses told the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8:19-20, "*It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God.*" (Deuteronomy 8:19-

20, NASB95) What can we take away from this chapter? Pray for our nation because we have reached this same level of depravity. Persevere and hold on to the hope that we have in Christ and spur one another on to love and good deeds as we see the day approaching.