

Judges, Sermon #5

Judges 2

Remember last week – we had the rebuking messenger – who did we say He was?

We said the angel of the Lord was a theophany – it was Christ pre-incarnate

Why did He come? To deliver a message

Was the message positive or negative?

2:1-5 – the charge of the Lord against His people: disobedience

Tonight we will see in vs. 10–13 – the rise of a generation who no longer knew nor
acknowledged the Lord

I have entitled tonight's message "A Failure to Connect"

Judges 2:10

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Judges 2:10-13

Let us pray

You may be seated

A Failure to Connect. October is Baseball playoffs. You don't score any runs, you lose.

Grab your Bible – are we connected to this Book?

What happens to God's people when there is a failure of connection to the Word of God?

God's people are over here. The Word is over there. What happens? A host of things can happen but the end result is loss, we lose.

Disconnected disobedience in the Book of Judges – these are not any in order.

#1 There was disobedience in following directions: 1:27-33

The tribes of Israel failed to conquer and drive out the Canaanites.

Samson broke the Nazarite vow (Judges 14:9)

Every step of disobedience, every action of defiance, every failure to obey is the possible seed of destruction.

Some people have yet to learn that they cannot travel in the wrong direction and reach the right destination.

Israel disobeyed the Lord.

They not only spared the Canaanites and their godless religious system but also began to follow the enemy's lifestyle themselves

Young person, stay away from smoking, alcohol, drugs, sex outside of marriage. The Bible says flee youthful lusts. What if you decide not to follow instructions? You can be addicted for life.

God's people choose to disconnect – to unhitch themselves

James 4:7, *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

#2 Disobedience in forming unhealthy alliances – being in agreement with people on things you ought not to be in agreement with.

Israel made treaties with the inhabitants of the land. 2:2

They were not to do this.

Business deals, dating relationships, marriage unions, friends—your friends will determine your future—the company we keep

Psalm 1:1, *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”*

Disobedience in Filthy Living:

Samson was involved with a harlot – 16:1 – as sheep to the slaughter

Outright sin – we participate in it – 13:1a

II Timothy 2:4, *“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*

James 4:8, *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”*

The call of God is not to a life of worldliness, not to a life of bright lights and fleshly pleasures and stimulations.

The call of God is to a life of separation from the immoral and unjust ways of the world and devotion to God.

Disobedience in serving false gods: 2:11; 3:7; 10:6

Israel served Balaam/Ashtaroth – next week – we will study about these false gods.

They abandon God, forsook the Lord – money, lust

Disobedience in fearing obstacles:

Israel feared foreign gods – 6:10

Israel feared the chariots of iron

For a period of over 300 years, disobedience took root and the tribes began to decay and rot from within.

They became a permissive, compromising society. A defeated country. No one could beat them, they beat themselves.

The decay of sin and evil began its ugly process immediately after the deaths of Joshua and the leaders of his cabinet.

Vs. 10

They became immoral, materialistic, greedy, lawless, and violent – a wicked people. And they became idolaters, false worshippers.

The Jews eventually became so accustomed to the sinful ways of their pagan neighbors that those ways didn't seem sinful anymore.

Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe in God and His Word
I don't think we really comprehend how important obedience is in the matters of life.
We are very dependent upon the obedience of others and sometimes fail to realize just how much.

If drivers decide to disobey traffic laws, we can be injured or killed in a crash.
Obedience is very important and disobedience is disruptive and destructive.
The sin in our lives that we fail to conquer will eventually conquer us.

Consider the sins of that new generation of people.

I. First, they forgot what the Lord had done – vs. 10e – Egypt, Red Sea, food, Jordan River, Jericho

We are people concerned about “what have you done for me lately”not in the past.

Parents radically saved.

You don't see it or grab it even though they speak of it often.

II. They forsook what the Lord had said – vs. 12 and vs. 2

Joshua, in his final message, emphasized the covenant God had made with Israel and the responsibility Israel had to keep it.

When we forget the Word of God, we are in danger of forsaking the God of the Word, which explains why Israel turned to the vile and vicious worship of Baal.

What we do with the Bible will determine what God does with us.

How did God's people get to this level of failure, floundering, and forsaking the Lord?

The Bible backs up and takes us back to the days of Joshua and his leadership.

He reviews the past – vs. 7

God's people served the Lord faithfully.

It is the decisions we make today for the Lord that determine our future.

After Joshua dies, those who were trained under Joshua continued to serve the Lord – until the next generation came on the scene.

It was a rebellious generation, 2:10 – there was a failure to connect.

Passing the faith (the baton) is difficult – Deuteronomy 6:

The generation that knew the Lord passed off the scene.

Another generation arose that “knew” not the Lord, nor the works which He had done for Israel.

This was the beginning of their downward spiral!

This generation knew about the Lord, but didn't know Him personally – vs. 10b

God – well, He was my parents' God

Each person has to personally put faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am not going to Heaven on my grandparent's or my parent's faith in Christ, but because I have chosen to trust Christ as my Savior.

Children cannot depend on the faith of their parents to save them.

Having Christian parents, living in a so-called Christian nation, accepting high moral values, attending a dynamic church where the truth of God's Word is preached – none of this is assurance that a person will know God and be saved.

Every individual has to receive Jesus Christ *personally* as his Savior.

Knowing God is a personal, individual experience.

Receiving Jesus Christ as one's own Savior has to be a personal experience.

Romans 10:13, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

No doubt, the next generation had "heard" about the past.

These events were talked about in homes and were remembered at feasts throughout the years.

But they did not by faith appropriate these truths into their own lives.

They were just stories with no meaning because there was no faith, no love for God, and no desire to know Him.

The greatest danger of our generation is to hear about Christ, His death, burial, resurrection, and miracles and let them go in one ear and out the other!

This generation is on the verge of missing Heaven by eighteen inches – the distance from their heart to their head.

Many have knowledge of Christ in their heads, but have not accepted Him into their hearts.

Vs. 10b

The Hebrew word for "knew" means to acknowledge, understand, or become acquainted with.

This new generation of Israelites did not know God: that is, they did not acknowledge God, understand God, nor become acquainted with God.

Within just one generation, Israel began to fail God.

They were religious, but their religion was just in tradition, not in power.

The downward spiral, the tailspin to tragedy

- They knew not the Lord. Vs. 10
- They did evil in the sight of the Lord. Vs. 11
- They served Balaam. Vs. 11
- They forsook the Lord. Vs. 12 & 13
- They followed other gods. Vs. 12
- They bowed to other gods. Vs. 12
- They provoked the Lord to anger. Vs. 13
- They served Baal and Ashtaroath. Vs. 13

There is only one direction to go when we disobey the Lord – down.

We cannot gain thru disobedience, thru disconnecting with God, His Church, His Book,
His Holiness

Let us stand for closing invitation

Have you personally trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior?

Are we disobeying directions? In alliance with?

Are we living filthy?

Are we forsaking the God of the Bible?