

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

### **Monday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Judges 17:1-6**

We start this week with an interesting story and the oddity that the text this week does not have a judge in it. But it does set us up for what will come after Easter. Today we will learn about our main character in these two chapter. Read the text. What do we learn about his man Micah right off the bat? Where does he live and what has he done? Now that he admitted what he has done, what does his Momma say and do? Having read the Torah, Joshua and now most of Judges, what do we know is wrong with what the mother is about to do? How far out of control does this gesture go (vss. 4-5)? How many things can you find wrong with this result? Now read verse 6 again. Notice there is no oppression and no reference to not having a king. How does everyone operate in everyday life at this point? What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about us? How is verse 6 being lived out today in our culture? Where might you be living out verse 6? How does this point to our need for Jesus? How is Jesus our priest? Do you think a crucifix or cross or other symbols created are at times the idols that we worship, rather than the one they point to?

### **Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – Judges 17:7-13**

As we begin today, we meet a new character in Micah's story. Who is he and how does he encounter Micah (vss.7-8)? What does him being a Levite tell you from your study thus far? Who are the Levites and what is their role in Israel? If you don't remember, look back at Deuteronomy 10:8. What is the conversation when the Levite meets Micah (vss. 9-10)? What is wrong with this proposal, based on who the Levites are and their position in Israel? How does the Levite respond to the offer (vs. 11)? What does this say as to how far Israel has wandered from God? Read verses 12-13 again. How has Micah deceived himself? Will God really love him more for worshipping his idols, just because he is now using a Levite to be his priest in this idolatry? Where is God in this story thus far? What does this reveal about us and our wanderings from God? Why or how do you think the Levite was so easily led astray? We've talked about how we create God in our own image, rather than letting God be God as He reveals himself in Jesus and in the Scriptures. What verses in this passage give a good example of Micah doing this? Where have you wandered away from the true God, deceiving yourself by expecting God to act and behave like you think He should? Now consider if Jesus ever did this? How can you be more like Jesus today?

### **Wednesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – Judges 18:1-7**

We shift now to another storyline that will eventually cross with Micah's story. As we begin, notice the first verse. This was said in verse 6 on Monday. Why do you think it is important to mention that there was no king? Remember the purpose of this is to point to the fact that a good king will draw the people back to God again and away from their apostasy. Who is this story about and what is the issue at hand (vss. 1-2a)? Do you remember why they did not move into their assigned land? We find the answer at the beginning of Judges in Judges 1:34-35. Who do the scouts meet (vs. 2)? Who do they meet and how do they know he was not from around there (vss. 3-4)? What do they ask the Levite and what is his response (vss. 5-6)? As the men traveled on, where did they come to and what did they see? How was it good for them? How was it not so good for that town? Again, there is no reference to God in this text. Dan had not finished what God instructed them regarding taking possession of the land. So now they are shopping for land in Judah's territory. What does this reveal about us as humans? How do we go to others to find out if our sinful choices are blessed by God? Where in our culture today is this happening now? How does this point to our need for Jesus? How is Jesus a better priest than the Levite?

### **Thursday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – Judges 18:8-20**

We continue the story of the tribe of Dan. The men have returned home. What is shared and what is the tribe's response (vss. 8-13)? Did God really give them that land (vs. 10)? Read verses 11-13. How many men went out and at whose home did they arrive? What do the scouts share with the other 595 men with them (vs. 14)? And what did they decide to do (vss. 15-17)? Notice that they were warmly greeted by the Levite. He apparently had no idea they were coming in to steal the carved image, ephod and idols. What does this say about the Tribe of Dan? Where is the God of Israel in their lives? Can you imagine seeing them leave with all these possessions of Micah and 595 others staring at you from just outside the gate? How does the Levite respond (vs. 18)? What offer do the Scouts make him (vs. 19)? Notice the priest's response in verse 20! He is happy to go with them. Not much commitment there and an offer of a higher position is just too tempting to pass up. What do we learn about ourselves and our relationship with God? It is just too easy for us to be led astray and give in to temptations that offer us things our selfish side wants. Things we think will make us happy. How does this point to Jesus? He is the only thing that makes us full and content. We do not need to chase other things. They will always fail us.

### **Friday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – Judges 18:21-31**

We close this week out with the end of the story. Notice how the 600 line up to head to Laish (vs. 21). Woman and children first! As we read on, we see Micah re-entering the story. What happens (vss. 22-26)? Perhaps those idols that were worshipped like gods were fickle and didn't like Micah any longer. This demonstrates that man-made idols are never truly gods. Even the idols we raise up today will disappoint. With the matter solved with Micah, the tribe of Dan continues onto Laish. What happens (vss. 27-31)? They slaughter a peaceful group. They build on land given to Judah. And they worship Micah's idols, even though the tabernacle of God was in Shiloh. What does this tell you about the level of debasement that Dan had reached? Remember there is no judge in this story, as Israel is neither oppressed, nor have they repented. God is there, but not active. At least not yet. Monday we read Judges 17:6. How did Israel live up to this statement in these two chapters? What does this reveal to you about us, the church? How does this point to our need for Jesus?

### **Saturday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Judges 19:20-28.**