

SERMON NOTES - 10 Shekels and a Suit

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

God's plan is for Him to be Lord of our lives, and for us to follow His ways and instructions.

Sometimes sin is due to ignorance and lack of knowledge, but usually it is willful disobedience with self deception whereby we convince ourselves that it's OK.

We, as humans, tend to want to do things OUR OWN way, but we still want to put a veneer of "God" on it, and expect our own actions and choices to be blessed by Him.

The result of this is pain and death, but there is an answer in Him (see below).

VERSES	STORY SUMMARY	COMMENTS
<p>PART 1 - THE FAMILY <u>Jdg 17:1-4</u></p>	<p>Micah steals his mother's 1,100 shekels</p> <p>She gives it back to him but uses \$200 to make idols.</p>	<p>God wants families to be honest and for there to be discipline in the home.</p> <p>God wants us to worship ONLY Him, with ALL our heart, and in the way He has given.</p> <p>Micah's family compromised, worshipped idols, and there was no discipline or respect.</p>
<p>PART 2 - WORSHIP <u>Jdg 17:5-13</u></p>	<p>Micah sets up idol worship at his house</p> <p>A Levite comes along and agrees to be his priest for money.</p>	<p>Worship is important - it starts with the family but it also affects the whole of society.</p> <p>God wants ministers (and all His people) to serve Him alone, not for money or for other motives.</p> <p>They were doing things against God's presecrived way of serving and ministering. Most importantly, they were serving themselves and their own selfish wants rather than serving God.</p>
<p>PART 3 - THE RESULTS <u>Jdg 18:1-13</u></p>	<p>The Danites were too scared / faithless to take the land God had allocated and promised them.</p> <p>They went and looked for an easier conquest.</p> <p>Some spies came and asked the priest to bless and guide them. He blessed them.</p>	<p>We should trust God and do what He promises and commands, rather than what is easy.</p> <p>If we go out of His ways, it results in pain and death, as we will see later.</p> <p>We need Godly leaders who serve and speak God's truth instead of what people want to hear.</p>
<p><u>Jdg 18:14-26</u></p>	<p>They bring 600 soldiers to take Laish for their own purposes (while telling themselves it is God's will).</p> <p>They arrive at Micah's house and take the priest and</p>	<p>The society that has been corrupted by this process is characterised by:</p> <p>Competition - even Churches compete with each other</p> <p>Compromise - God's ways are not followed wholeheartedly</p> <p>Coercion - intimidation and group pressure are used to silence those who object.</p>

<p><u>Jdg 18:27-31</u></p>	<p>Micah's religious idols. They intimidate and frighten Micah and the Priest in order to get their way.</p> <p>They annihilate peaceful Laish and rename it "Dan" even though the area God called "Dan" was far away from there.</p> <p>The results: Idol worship is established in Dan as a rival to Shiloh (where the Ark of covenant dwelt) Jonathan and his descendants operated as priests there for a long time (300 years). There was a captivity.</p>	<p>Death was a result - many peaceful people were killed in God's name.</p> <p>This corruption of family and worship affects many people and many generations and death and destruction (both physical and eternal death) are the result.</p>
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The answer: repentance, His grace, and committing ourselves wholeheartedly to genuinely honouring and obeying Him in all our ways as individuals, families, and Churches. If we do this we can have redemption and get back on His path.

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.