

Today:
October 12, 2014

Scripture Focus: Judges 1-4, 6-9, 11, 14-16

The People of Israel did evil in God's sight: they served Baal-gods; they deserted God, the God of their parents who had led them out of Egypt; they took up with other gods, gods of the peoples around them. They actually worshiped them! And oh, how they angered God as they worshiped god Baal and goddess Astarte! God's anger was hot against Israel: He handed them off to plunderers who stripped them; he sold them cheap to enemies on all sides. They were helpless before their enemies. Every time they walked out the door God was with them—but for evil, just as God had said, just as he had sworn he would do. They were in a bad way.

But then God raised up judges who saved them from their plunderers. But they wouldn't listen to their judges; they prostituted themselves to other gods—worshiped them! They lost no time leaving the road walked by their parents, the road of obedience to God's commands. They refused to have anything to do with it.

When God was setting up judges for them, he would be right there with the judge: He would save them from their enemies' oppression as long as the judge was alive, for God was moved to compassion when he heard their groaning because of those who afflicted and beat them. But when the judge died, the people went right back to their old ways—but even worse than their parents!—running after other gods, serving and worshiping them. Stubborn as mules, they didn't drop a single evil practice.

(Judges 2:11-19, Message)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- What are other the gods that distract you and tempt you from worshiping God alone?
- What are ways you work or could work at being faithful to God in the midst of those other gods that distract or tempt you from worshiping God alone?
- “Stubborn as mules, they didn't drop a single evil practice” (Judges 2:19, *Message*). What are the evil practices in your life that God is asking you to let go of, and in what ways are you being stubborn?

This Week: **October 13-18**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 10/13	Tuesday 10/14	Wednesday 10/15	Thursday 10/16	Friday 10/17	Saturday 10/18
Exodus 29-32	Exodus 33-36	Exodus 37-40	Leviticus 1-4	Leviticus 5-7	Leviticus 8-10

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

How important is the Sabbath (Exodus 31:12-18)? Why?

What caused the people to mess up (Ex. 32)? What do you make of God's response?

Tuesday

How have you experienced God's glory (Ex. 33:12-23)?

Wednesday

The people only traveled when the cloud of God's presence departed (Ex. 40:34-38). How can we be more aware of God's presence today?

Thursday

What strikes you about the different kinds of offerings described in these chapters?

Friday

What do you think of the regulations for each of these kinds of offerings?

Saturday

What are the priestly duties listed in these chapters?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

In this year, we will spend 6 weeks or more as a congregation on selected passages that we will take to heart. We will have monthly times in worship for reviewing and reciting these passages together. Our first memory text is **Deuteronomy 26:5-10a**, the "Covenant Recital". Take some time this week to begin memorizing this text as well as any other text that you would like to put to memory.

Next Sunday: October 19

Theme: United monarchy/role of the prophet

Scripture Focus: 1 Sam. 1-3, 7-12:15, 15-16; 2 Sam. 5-6, 11-12, 24; Jer. 1