### Judges

## Chapter 19

1Now, there was a Levite that had been staying in the hills of Ephraim, and there he took a concubine for himself who was from BethLehem of Judah.  
  
2However, his concubine got angry and left him, returning home to her father in BethLehem. Then after 4 months, 3he went there (along his servant and a pair of burros) to plead with her to come back to him... So she let him into her father’s house, and she and her father met with him (for she was really very happy to see him).  
  
4Then his father-in-law (the father of the young woman) urged him to stay there for three days; so, they all ate, drank, and stayed together there. 5Then on the 4th day, when he got up early in the morning to leave, the girl’s father said to his son-in-law:  
  
 ‘Have a bite to eat before you go.’  
  
6So the two of them sat down together and ate and drank once again.  
  
Thereafter, the girl’s father said to her man:  
  
 ‘Stick around for a while; spend another night and enjoy yourself!’  
  
7And when the man got up to leave, his father-in-law wouldn’t allow him to go, so he spent another night there.  
  
8Then when he got up early the next morning (on the 5th day) and got ready to leave, the girl’s father said:  
  
 ‘Stop acting like a soldier… Stay here and build your strength until later in the day.’  
  
So the two [sat down to] eat.  
  
9And when the man, his concubine, and his servant got ready to go, his father-in-law said to him:  
  
 ‘Look, it’s almost evening… Spend the night and let’s enjoy ourselves!  
  
 ‘You can leave early tomorrow morning and start your trip back home then.’  
  
10But he didn’t want to spend another night there, so he got up and left… He saddled his burros and set off with his concubine... 11Well, they got as far as Jebus (JeruSalem) and it was getting very late.  
  
So the servant said to his master:  
  
 ‘Let’s stop here in this Jebusite city and spend the night.’  
  
12But his master replied:  
  
 ‘We don’t want to stay in a city of foreigners; for there are no sons of IsraEl here. 13Let’s just continue on and spend the night in GibeAh.’  
  
14So they traveled on and arrived at So they traveled on and arrived at <span class="placename">BabaAhSo they traveled on and arrived at <span class="placename">BabaAh</span> (in the tribe of BenJamin) later that night.  
  
15Well, when they got to BabaAh, they prepared to stay in the street, because no one had invited them in to spend the night in their home. 16But then an old man came in from working in the fields. He was from the mountains of Ephraim, but at the time he was living in BabaAh among the sons of BenJamin.  
  
17And when he saw the travelers sitting in the street, the old man asked them:  
  
 ‘Where have you come from? And where are you heading?’  
  
18And [the Levite] replied:  
  
 ‘We’re coming from ‘We’re coming from <span class="placename">BethLehem of Kudag ‘We’re coming from <span class="placename">BethLehem of Kudag</span>, and we’re heading towards the side of ‘We’re coming from <span class="placename">BethLehem of Kudag</span>, and we’re heading towards the side of <span class="placename">Mount Ephraim ‘We’re coming from <span class="placename">BethLehem of Kudag</span>, and we’re heading towards the side of <span class="placename">Mount Ephraim</span>. I live there, and I’ve gotten this far from BethLehem in my journey home… But no one has invited us into his house.  
  
 19‘We have enough straw and food for our burros, and enough bread and wine for me, the girl, and my servant; so your servants really won’t be deprived of anything.’  
  
20Then the man brought them into his home, provided a place for their burros, washed their feet, 21fed them, and gave them something to drink.  
  
22Well, as they were sitting there enjoying themselves, some men from the city (sons of criminals) surrounded the house and started banging on the door.  
Then they shouted at the old man who owned the house:  
  
 ‘Send out the man who came into your house, so we can [have sex] with him!’  
  
23But [the old man] stepped outside and said to them:  
  
 ‘No brothers; please don’t do him any harm, for he’s a guest in my home! Don’t do such a terrible thing!  
  
 24‘Look, here’s my daughter who’s a virgin, and here’s the man’s concubine... I’ll bring them out to you and you can treat them however you wish… But, don’t mistreat this man!’  
  
25However, because the men wouldn’t listen to him, he grabbed the concubine and brought her outside to them, and they raped and abused her all night long, releasing her in the morning.  
  
26After that, she came and fell at the door of the house where her man [had hidden] himself. 27And when her man got up and opened the door to continue his journey the next morning, he found her lying there by the door with her hands on the threshold.  
  
28So he spoke to her and said:  
  
 ‘Get up, let’s go!’  
  
But she didn’t answer, because she was dead.  
  
Then he lifted [her body] onto his burro and he returned home.  
  
  
29Well, [when he got home], he took his sword and cut his concubine’s body into 12 parts and sent them to [all the tribes] of IsraEl.  
  
30And everyone who saw this said:  
  
 ‘We’ve never seen such a day, nor has anyone seen such a day since the sons of IsraEl left the land of Egypt!  
  
 ‘So, let’s assemble and decide what we must do.’