

34 The Victory of the Judges

Chapter

Judges 2:6–23

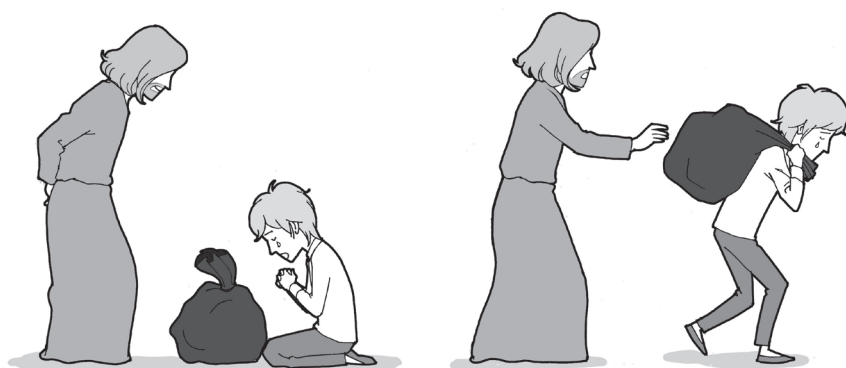
Today's Lesson:



1. To understand that God faithfully grants us salvation even though we may have repeatedly sinned.

2. To understand that I can only be victorious in my Christian life when I rely on God who is in my heart.

Open Your Heart



1. Was there a time when you were chastised by God for your sins, and you sincerely prayed in repentance?

2. Did you commit that sin again?

You should not recycle the sins that you have laid down before God. Please don't try to take it again!



Understanding Today's Lesson

The generation after Joshua and the people of the conquest of Canaan knew nothing about God or war. They forgot about God and chose to worship the gods of the Canaanites. Seeing their disobedience and wickedness, God used the Canaanites, who were slaves to Israel, and chastised Israel by allowing the Canaanites to oppress and rule over them. Israel cried out to God in the midst of their suffering and persecution, and each time, God raised up judges to save Israel. However, when the judges prolonged the time of victory and peace, Israel would once again turn against God and commit the sin of serving the gods of the gentiles. Therefore, God punished the people of Israel once again with the Gentile nations. The period of the judges was a time of repeated disobedience, chastisement, supplication, and salvation. The judges that were appointed by God were consistently victorious in battle. The first Judge of Israel, Othniel, fought and defeated Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia. The left-handed Ehud killed Eglon, king of Moab, and defeated his army. Deborah and Barak defeated Jabin, king of Canaan, and Sisera, the commander of the army of Canaan. Gideon and his three hundred men annihilated the army of the Midianites that were as numerous as locusts, and Samson delivered Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

We may be saved, but we still have a sinful nature. When we sin because of the weakness of our flesh, God chastises us. However, when we cry out to God in the midst of our suffering, the Holy Spirit helps and saves us. In this manner, the judges can be seen as a symbol of the Holy Spirit who is always with us and helps us. The secret to our victory in this world that is so full of sin is to always follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Notes:



Memorizing Bible Verses

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

(Romans 8:26)



Meditate

On These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(Judges 2:14–15)

(2 Samuel 8:6, 14)

(Deuteronomy 28:7, 25)



Changing

Directions

Read Judges 2:1–5 and answer the following questions.

1. Read Judges 2:1, and write down the grace that the Israelites received from God.
 - 1) He led them up from ().
 - 2) He brought them to the () that He swore to their fathers.
 - 3) He will never break His () with them.
2. Read Judges 2:2, and write down how the nation of Israel should repay that grace.
 - 1) They shall make no covenant with the (). In other words, they must be separate from the world.
 - 2) They shall tear down the () of the inhabitants of this land. In other words, they must firmly maintain the purity of the faith.
 - 3) They must () the voice of God. In other words, they must obey God.
3. What kind of chastisement and rebuke did the nation of Israel for their disobedience?
 - 1) "But you have not obeyed My voice. ()?"
 - 2) The Gentile people shall be () in their ().
 - 3) The gods of the gentiles shall be a () to them.
The nation of Israel will be afflicted by the gentiles, and will suffer due to the entrapment of the gentile gods.
4. How did the people of Israel react to hearing these words?
 - 1) The people lifted their voice and () and () to the Lord.
5. How am I repaying God for all the grace that He has given me? Have you ever shed tears of repentance before the Lord when you were chastised for forgetting that grace?



Applying

The Word to My Life

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
(James 2:26)

1. Please write down how you will apply what you learned today throughout this week.

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praying

To Live According to the Word

Let us confess our disobedience and habitual sins to the Lord, and ask that we may have the heart to hate those sins. And let us pray so that we can truly repent and forsake our sins, rather than just doing it out of emotion or formality.



Our Story

Stirring Up Your Heart

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In the past, each house had a bucket of wastewater for food scraps and garbage. At first glance, it appeared to contain clean water.



However, if you took a stick and stirred the water up, all the dirty things would rise.

The heart of man is the same. Our hearts may seem gentle when we are not troubled, but when our hearts are stirred up, all the dirty things of the heart rise up to the surface.

The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. (Jeremiah 17:9–10)

Philip Melanchthon: Those Who Are Sure of Victory Will Be Victorious

When it comes to the Reformation, it is easy to only think of Martin Luther. However, there was also a man who was a close friend of Martin Luther. His name was Philip Melanchthon, and his life is also a part of the history of the Reformation. Although he was fifteen years younger than Martin Luther, he was a remarkably close friend, nonetheless. They were so close that after they died, according to their wills, they were buried together in a tomb of the Wittenberg Church.

If Martin Luther was an activist, then Philip Melanchthon was a scholar. During the Reformation, there were times when Luther wanted to give up out of frustration. Although Melanchthon was Luther's junior, as a friend he always said, "if you are convinced that the truth of the Bible is indeed the truth, you must believe that it will triumph!" And in every letter and every conversation, whenever he had an opportunity, Melanchthon encouraged Luther through this passage in the Bible.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

The reason we will triumph is because we have faith in God's sovereignty. If we are true Christians and born-again believers, we must believe that in our lives God has prepared a wonderful plan of victory.





Wednesday

Sermon

Date. | |

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



Sunday

Sermon

Date.

|

|

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage: