

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Episode 3: *Death & Dismemberment*

INTRODUCTION – “What’s “True” vs. What’s “Right”

REFLECTION QUESTION:

If these stories are true, what should we make of a God like this?

THE STORY – The Night From Hell

Judges 19

PROBING THE PROBLEMS

THE *MADNESS* OF JUDGES...

THE *MANTRA* OF JUDGES (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)...

THE *MESSAGE* OF JUDGES...

The Book of Judges was written to warn us of the extent of the _____ side of humanity. Used twice by Hosea (9:9; 10:9) to illustrate just how terrible Israel can be apart from dependence upon God.

LOOKING DEEPER – Reading Below The Lines

LIFE LESSON #1:

_____ is not the source of our salvation; _____ is.

Romans 7:1-13

- *Rules* (as ultimate force) assume that people are working _____ each other for their _____ benefit.
- *Love* (as ultimate force) assumes that people are oriented _____ each other for the _____ benefit.

LIFE LESSON #2:

The Bible is not just God’s message to us, but the story of human _____ to follow God’s message. Keep this in mind when reading.

CONCLUSION – Listening To Scripture’s Counsel

Judges 19:30

RECOMMENDED READING...

The Harlot By The Side Of The Road: Forbidden Tales Of The Bible, by Jonathan Kirsch

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one new thing you learned or one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Does the Bible celebrate or denigrate women? (Discuss. If possible, use Scripture to support your opinions.)
3. It’s worth taking the time to read about the aftermath of the story of the cut-up concubine in **Judges 20-21**. Take the time to read both chapters (either as a group or individually), then review the narrative by all contributing to piecing together an overview of what happened. a) One defence of the violence of the story of chapter 19 is that God was not an active part of any of it. How is that defence not possible for chapters 20 and 21? b) What role does God play? c) When is the last time God’s direct guidance is followed in this narrative? What is the significance of this? Brainstorm.
4. The *tribalism* of the Old Testament led to increasing violence (as Judges aptly illustrates). Identity was established and defended based on birth and bloodline. In light of this, what is the radical significance of Jesus’ words in **Matthew 12:46-50 (Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21)**? Talk about it.

SO WHAT?...

5. What “tribe” (people group, whether set apart by ethnicity, age, gender, status, intelligence, appearance, or other things) do you find most difficult to love like Jesus?
6. Take a few moments (2-3 minutes) to meditate on **Romans 7:4-6**. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.)
7. Pray for each other in light of #’s 4 and 5 above.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, July 25 / August 1, 2004