

# Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for November 20, 2022

## Sermon Notes

### **The Promised King: When There Was No King** **Judges 17-21**

The Book of Judges is dark and ugly. The reason for this is stated explicitly: “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6, 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). These final five chapters in Judges describe how bad things became in Israel during the time when “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” We encounter homemade religion, moral bankruptcy, injustice, and civil war. What we see at the end of Judges is a sad transformation as the Israelites become like the Canaanites.

This is not the end of the story. The Promised King is coming. But not yet. There is still no king in Israel. These final chapters of Judges are proof of that reality.

Micah and his homemade religion: a microcosm. Judges 17

The people of Dan and their self-directed conquest: a violent delusion. Judges 18

A Levite, his concubine, and a dark night in Gibeah: depravity displayed. Judges 19

The Levite’s half-truths and Israel’s costly retribution: civil war. Judges 20

Israel’s self-inflicted dilemma and misguided solution: the chaos continues. Judges 21

Conclusion: This kind of moral, political, social, and spiritual chaos is what happens when people are left to themselves without spiritual guidance to do whatever they want. Judges leaves us yearning for such a king. God would eventually establish his ideal king, one after his own heart, David. From David, he has now established his ultimate ideal king, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Applications:

Judges is a mirror of our heart – we are all prone to wander.

Leadership matters – who/what is leading you, your family, this church?

Everyday moral/ethical decisions matter. There are no insignificant decisions when it comes to our faith and life.

Our perspective matters – our identity, our hope, and our confidence in Christ is what anchors us in this “Canaanized” culture in which we live.

## Weekly Discipleship Guide

### Know

**What does God intend for me to know?  
In your journal, use the following prompts to write  
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

### Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?  
In your journal, use the following questions to write  
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

### Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write  
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What happens to our understanding of the gospel (and how it applies to ourselves and the world around us) if we don't admit to our own inherent sinfulness?

How does the idea of the idol of "my family/people/tribe" resonate with and challenge you? How can this lead to our being "Canaanized?" How can we continually assess this and resist this?

How can we know if our minds, hearts, or actions are being led by the wrong influences? Do you think it is easy to be deceived by the "leaders" we allow to influence us? If so, how?

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
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#### Contact Us

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#### Upcoming Events

##### November

17 Red Cross Blood Drive-10:30a.m.-3p.m.  
22 Thanksgiving Service @ 7p.m.  
24-25 Church Office Closed  
27 Christmas Decorating (after service)

##### December

3 Women's Min Christmas Event  
4 Kid's Christmas Program @ 6p.m.  
7 Member's Business Meeting @ 6:30p.m.  
12 GS: Surviving the Holidays @ 6:30p.m.