

# Brave Heart

(Courage in a World of Compromise)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, August 15/16, 2015

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## “People without Hearts” Judges 17:1-18:31

In some ways, the end of Samson is the end of the Judges story. The earlier passages give us a bird’s-eye view of things, only saying that the people “did evil in the eyes of the Lord” (3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1). The last four chapters of Judges give us a ground-level, detailed view of what life was like in Israel—the kind of spiritual condition God rescued them from (People without Hearts). Our character will either make us or break us in life. People of godly character 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost have a heart for God (Matt15:8-9; Hosea6:6; 2Chro17:9).

### What does it look like to have a Heart for God?

Judges 17:1-6, 13, 18:1, 5-6, 18-20, 24, 30-31

- 1) Why we do what we do is as important as what we do. 17:2a; 1Cor10:31
- 2) There is a major difference between a morally restrained will through fear and pride (self-centered) and a supernaturally transformed heart through love (God-centered). 17:2b; Ex20:3; 2Cor5:14-15
- 3) We need a healthy balance between grace and truth to bring about the heart change we all so desperately need. 17:2c; Eph4:15
- 4) True worship of God is heart experience based on the objective truth of God’s Word impacting every area of our lives. 17:2-4; John4:23-24; Luke6:46-49
- 5) We are not to reshape God to fit our hearts and society but to let God reshape our hearts and society. 17:3-5; Ex20:4; 2Tim4:3-4
- 6) Religion is about getting God to serve you; gospel faith is about getting your heart to serve Him in every area of your life. 17:7-13; Mark8:34-38

- 7) Being a participant rather than a spectator in a healthy local church family is not optional but a necessity to spiritual health and growth. Ex25:1-9; 17:10-12; 18:19-20; Heb10:24-25; Acts 4:42-47; 1&2Tim, Titus; 1Pet5
- 8) Disobedience and an idolatrous view of God will cause us to suffer from the curse of restlessness and alienation. 18:1; Judges1:34; Ps95
- 9) A heart sold out for God gives us a meaning, hope and love that transcend the suffering and losses of life increasing infinitely and eternally at death. 18:24; Phil1:21
- 10) God has no grandchildren—every individual must know God intellectually and experientially growing deeper and deeper into the Gospel. 18:30-31; John17:3

### Growing Notes

- 1) What do you think it means to have a gospel heart for God (Matt15:8-9; Hosea6:6; 2Chro17:9)? If character is what makes us or breaks us in life. Why do you think godly character is 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost about having a gospel heart for God?
- 2) Read Judges 17:1-18:31. What stands out to you from this text? Review the 10 statements from the sermon notes on what it looks like to have a heart for God? Which one(s) are most comforting and which one(s) are most convicting?
- 3) In light of this study how would you now define what it means to have a gospel heart for God? How do you think having a Gospel heart for God changes the way you live your life and how you relate to others? Pray that db is a place where more and more people are growing in character through a gospel heart for God.