

# Brave Heart

(Courage in a World of Compromise)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, August 22/23, 2015

Ray Davis

## “People without a King” Judges 19:1-21:25

“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25). All human problems and pain are symptoms and the cause is our separation from God. The reason for all the abuse, brokenness and misery—is that we are not reconciled to God.

### Judges 19:1-3, 22-30, 20:4-5, 11

God’s people have become like Sodom (Gen 19:1-11). Human solutions can’t fix the intractable problem of evil (spiritual problems). (Judges 20-21) Mending the Soul (Understanding and Healing Abuse) Steven R. Tracy

### The Nature of Abuse:

- Abuse is rampant but redeemable. Rom 8:28; Gen 50:20
- Abuse is a perversion of the Image of God. Genesis 1-2
- ✓ Sexual abuse – a perversion of “one flesh” Gen 2:24  
Any sexual relationship outside of God’s boundaries (talk or touching).  
Any sexual relationship between a husband and wife that is forced or hurtful physically or emotionally.
- ✓ Physical abuse – a perversion of “let them rule” Gen 1:26  
Child abuse: it is legally defined as any non-accidental injury to a minor by an adult or care giver. Adult abuse: it is the use or threat of physical violence to control someone.
- ✓ Neglect abuse – a perversion of “cultivate the ground” Gen 1:26  
This is the failure of a parent or guardian to provide a minor with adequate food, clothing, medical care, protection, supervision & emotional support.
- ✓ Spiritual abuse – a perversion of “image” Gen 1:26  
Blind loyalty to leadership. Don’t ask questions just follow. Christians don’t suffer unless there is sin or unbelief in their life. Never express your feelings unless they are positive. God will accept and bless you if you will obey. At all costs keep up the image of the organization or the family.
- ✓ Verbal abuse – a perversion of “be fruitful” Gen 1:28  
Aggravation—picking on you (Ps 102:8). Intimidation—making threats (Ps 109:20). Denigration—putting you down (Ps 22:7). Humiliation—shaming you (Ps 69:19). Manipulation—bullying you (Ps 73:8). Domination—controlling you (Ps 118:13). Defamation—slandering you (Ps 31:13). Condemnation—use of profanity towards you (Ps 35:16).

- Profile of abusers: Pervasive Denial of Responsibility, Bold Deceitfulness, Harsh Judgmentalism, Calculated Intimidation.

### The Effects of Abuse:

- Shame – unfounded disgust toward self Gen 3:8-13; 1 Jn 1:9
- Powerlessness and deadness – Feeling helpless/hopeless and shutting of all feelings (Numbing). John 14:6; Isa 40:31; Rom 8:11
- Isolation – shattered intimacy with God & others. Matt 22:37-40

### The Healing Path:

- Face the brokenness: Don’t keep it a secret. Call it what it is. Grieve the loss and dare to hope. Let God reinterpret your trauma. Ps 34:6, 18; Rom 8:38-39; Ps 147:3-4
- Rebuild intimacy with God: Wrestle with God (Ps 13:1-2). Redefine the Fatherhood of God (Matt 6:9). Get to know the God of Scripture (Ps 9:9-10). Embrace the Cross (1 Cor 1:18; Gal 6:14).
- Forgiveness: Let go of hatred & revenge (Heb 12:15). Let God settle the score (Rom 12:17-21). Reflect on the abuser’s humanness (Col 3:12-13). Extend grace as God has given to you (Eph 4:32; Matt 18:21-35). Maintain healthy boundaries/Trust must be earned (Pro 4:23; Matt 3:8).

### Growing Notes

- 1) Judges 21:25 summarizes the whole book of Judges. What’s the point of that verse and how would you paraphrase it? The reason for all the abuse, brokenness and misery—is that we are not reconciled to God. Explain.
- 2) Read Judges 19:1-3, 22-30, 20:4-5, 11. What are your thoughts? How does this event mirror Genesis 19:1-11? What does this say about the Israelites? In what ways in our culture are we in danger of treating women as property, as things?
- 3) What is abuse and what are the different kinds of abuse? What is the profile of an abuser and how does this Levite fit the profile? What are the affects of abuse? What is the healing path for abuse?
- 4) This side of heaven there are no satisfactory answers to why God continues to allow evil and suffering but we do know that God delights in taking evil and suffering and creating great good out of them (Rom 8:28; Gen 50:20). Explain. Pray that db will continue to be a place of healing and wholeness in Christ.