

OUR FAILURES AND GOD'S RESCUE

Judges 2:6-19

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What contemporary idols can you identify in our culture and world today?
- In what areas of your life do you struggle to trust God completely?

It can be difficult to trust God when we can't see him. It's a lot easier to trust people, money, or the government. However, only God is eternally faithful and only God has our best interest in mind. That's one of the lessons the book of Judges demonstrates. Through its distinct, repetitive pattern, Judges shows us that when we fail to remember God's faithful and saving acts in our lives, we are prone, like Israel, to succumb to the temptation of idols present in our culture. We sin and rebel; God disciplines us by permitting the consequences of our choices to play out in our lives. Yet, all is not lost. If we, like Israel, repent, then God will rescue and deliver his people. Discover a compassionate God who is faithful even when we are faithless.

Listen: [Our Failures and God's Rescue](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In his commentary, *Judges For You*, Timothy Keller pinpoints the real danger of the religion of Canaan, "The pagan world-view was that there were many gods...each of whom had a particular area of influence, and none of whom demanded lordship over every single area of life...Paganism therefore could accept the existence, but not the exclusive sovereignty, of the LORD." God wanted Israel to drive out this dangerous religion so that it would no longer tempt or distract them from serving and worshiping him. What are the false gods in your life, threatening to undermine your complete trust in and worship of the one, true God?
- Why is it so important to share our knowledge about God, talk about his work in our lives, and willingly discuss our relationship with him, particularly with others of the next generation? What opportunities do you have for inter-generational relationships where you can both encourage others in their faith and be encouraged in your own?
- Judges tells us that God gives the Israelites over to their enemies. Keller notes that slavery is a natural consequence of idolatry, "When we make something into an idol, it continually makes us miserable...When we make something into an idol, it binds and enslaves us" (26). God does not oppress us, rather we experience oppression because of what we allowed into our lives. Can you identify an example of how this has been true in your own life or an example from history?
- What do you want to cry out to God about? Where do you see a need for revival in your own life, in the life of your family, in the life of the Church?

Related Passages

- Deuteronomy 6
- Psalm 106:34-47
- Romans 1:18-2:4

Conclusion

Reflect on your life. Are there idols you're struggling to eradicate from your life or areas you've misplaced your trust in someone or something that is not God? Have an honest conversation with God about what it is and why. Ask God to strengthen your faith and close your prayer with the words of Psalm 106:47:

*Save us, Lord our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.*

Then imagine your faith legacy. What do you hope it will be? What can you do now to set yourself on the right path towards establishing that legacy? Journal your thoughts, pray for God's help to abide by Deuteronomy 6, so you and those who come after you will know and love the Lord.

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