

## JUDGES 19

1. What slogan for the book of Judges do we see repeated in 19:1?
2. In chapters 17 and 18 we saw how the lack of central authority played a role in the idolatry of the nation. The people had turned from following God as their king, and with no other godly leader in place, chapters 19-21 illustrate the anarchy and immorality that prevailed. Who do we meet in verse 1? The Levite takes a concubine which was a second-status wife. This practice was never divinely approved. The concubine is unfaithful to the Levite and then she returns to her father's house in Bethlehem. How long does she stay there?
3. After four months, the Levite travels to Bethlehem. What does he do to initiate a reconciliation with his concubine? What is her father's response to him?
4. The father shows hospitality to the Levite for four days and part of a fifth day before the Levite decides he has had enough and can stay no longer. After they hit the road, his servant suggests they pull over and stay the night in Jebus (Jerusalem). It was called Jebus at the time because of the Amorite group of Jebusites who lived there. What is ironic about the Levite's response?
5. They press on and finally stop four miles to the north. Where do they decide to stay for the night? What tribe does this town belong to? When they enter the town square, what do they notice about the hospitality of the town?  
  
Who do we meet next in verse 16? What does he say to the Levite? At the last minute they are saved by the old man from a night of danger in the square.
6. What does the old man offer to the Levite? How does he show the Levite hospitality (v. 21)?
7. While the Levite and the old man were eating and drinking, men of the city surround the house and pound on the door and demand that the old man bring out the Levite so that they can have relations with him. Reminiscent of the wicked men from Sodom in the time of Lot (read Genesis 19:1-11), how are these men described in verse 22?
8. What does the old man say as he goes out to try and reason with these wicked Benjamites in verse 23?
9. In a terrible display of parenting and chivalry, who does the old man offer instead to these wicked men? The men would not listen, so the Levite shoves his concubine out the door to them. After a night of unspeakable abuse, she is released and she falls at the door of the house where she died. The Levite then takes her home and performs an unbelievable act of cruelty. The Levite perhaps does all this to charge the entire nation of Israel with his concubine's death and the atrocities committed by these Benjamite men. This whole sequence is difficult and unfathomable for us to read and understand (as it was for the Levite's contemporaries as well). What did all who saw it say in verse 30?
10. Read Romans 1:24-32. What has our study in Judges revealed about our hearts and the grace of God? What other lessons of hope and light can we take from such a dark section of Scripture in Judges 19?