

That's Messed Up!

Week #1 - Repeat Redeemer

God saves. His people sin. God saves again. His people sin again. That's jacked up! The story of ancient Israel is almost hard to believe. Why would they give up the God who rescued them from Egypt and gave them the promised land? Yet they did exactly that. But instead of leaving them to the consequences of their sin, God heard their cry for help and redeemed his people time and time and again. Thankfully, the same God does the same thing for sinners who struggle with same problem today.

- *Judges 2:6-8 - After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. 7 The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. 8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten.*
- *Judges 2:10 - After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.*
- *Judges 21:24,25 - At that time the Israelites left that place and went home to their tribes and clans, each to his own inheritance. 25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.*
- *Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.*

The **heart** - it's messed up.

- *Judges 2:11-13 - Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger 13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.*

Cheating (on God) - that's messed up.

- *Judges 2:14,15 - In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. 15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.*
- *Judges 2:16,18 - Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders...18 Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them.*

The Messed Up Cycle

Rebellion —> Oppression —> **Deliverance** —> Rest

Salvation (in a beautiful way) - is messed up.

- Titus 3:4-7 - *4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

Points to Ponder

- 1) What is the most messed up situation you are dealing with in your life right now? How, if at all, do you see God at work in the midst of that situation?
- 2) In Judges, the people of Israel struggle not with denying the LORD's existence, but with making him one of many gods that they worshiped. Which other "gods" do you find yourself attracted to? In other words, what do you want so badly (romantic love, power at work, to be the center of attention, etc.) that you would break one of God's commandments to get it? If possible, provide an example.
- 3) Challenge: Summer is vacation season but not a time to take a vacation from the Grow root. So, as a church family, we are going to challenge you to read through 2 books of the Bible - Judges & Genesis - this summer. (2 of our 3 sermon series focus on them.) Every week we will give you the chapters to read so all you have to do is open your bible or bible app! This week's chapters are: Judges 1-5.

Homework: Judges 3:12-30