



REAL HEROES FOR DARK DAYS

A STUDY OF JUDGES

#7: WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND JUDGES 9

JIM HINTON

I. THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING

1. Scriptures:

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

Galatians 6:7-8 (MSG)

2. Truths:

- I will reap the same kind as I sow
- I will reap more than I sow
- I will reap what I sow in its season

II. THE LAW IN THE LIFE OF ABIMELECH – JUDGES 9:1-57

1. Abimelech becomes king of Israel (v.1-21)

Through...

- Selfish ambition (v.1-2)
- Idolatrous greed (v.3-4)

- **Heartless murder (v.5)**
- **Defiant arrogance (v.6-21)**

“All right then,” Joshua said, “destroy the idols among you, and turn your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God. We will obey him alone.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day at Shechem, committing them to follow the decrees and regulations of the LORD. Joshua recorded these things in the Book of God’s Instructions. As a reminder of their agreement, he took a huge stone and rolled it beneath the terebinth tree beside the Tabernacle of the LORD. Joshua said to all the people, “This stone has heard everything the LORD said to us. It will be a witness to testify against you if you go back on your word to God.”

Joshua 24:23-27 (NLT)

2. Abimelech foils a coup against him (v.22-49)

- **Gaal makes a “drunk brag” (v.22-29)**
- **Zebul sets Gaal up (v.30-41)**
- **Abimelech has revenge on Shechem (v.42-49)**

3. Abimelech is punished by God (v.50-57)

- **Abimelech attacks Thebez (v.50-52)**
- **Abimelech is killed (v.53-56)**
- **Jotham’s curse is fulfilled (v.57)**

God may have been silent, but he was not absent. In what seemed like the natural course of events, he was acting in judgment. There was no lightning bolt from heaven... but there was justice. As Paul puts it in Romans 1:18: “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.” God’s judgment is not only reserved for a future day; it is a present reality.

Tim Keller

Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow