



REAL HEROES FOR DARK DAYS

A STUDY OF JUDGES

#12: THE DANGERS OF IDOLATRY JUDGES 17-18

JIM HINTON

I. THE DANGERS OF IDOLATRY

And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments

Exodus 20:1-6 (NIV)

1. Idolatry limits God

2. Idolatry conceals God

The real horror of idols is not merely that they give us nothing, but that they take away from us even that which we have.

Joy Davidman

3. Idolatry also distorts God

4. Idolatry confines God

II. SAMSON: THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED POTENTIAL—JUDGES 13-16

1. Act One: Samson’s thrilling beginning (13:1-25)

⇒ His birth was predicted by The Angel of the Lord (v.1-3)

⇒ He had godly parents (v.4-5a; 8-23)

⇒ God had a special purpose for his life (v.5b-25)

2. Act Two: Samson's turbulent life (14:1-16:22)

Samson made a habit of...

- **Worldly attitudes:**
- **Impulsive decisions:**
- **Moral compromise:**
- **Trivializing godliness:**

3. Act Three: Samson's tragic end (16:23-31)

III. WAYS TO AVOID THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED POTENTIAL

1. **View my relationship with God as a lifestyle – not an event**
2. **Realize that small moral compromises often lead to big moral failures**
3. **Refuse to put myself in situations that could compromise my commitment to God**

IV. OVERVIEW OF JUDGES CHAPTERS 17 AND 18

The consequences of radical relativism:

1. **Chaos in the family 17:1-6**
2. **Chaos in the worship (17:7-13)**
3. **Chaos in the society (18:1-31)**