October 25,2026
Lesson 8 (NIV)

A LACK OF INSTRUCTION

A FORGOTTEN HISTORY

Judges 17:1-6 - Judges 18:18-19, 27 NIV 📖

KEY TEXT : Judges 17:6 “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”

Lesson Context

1. **An accurate understanding of the book of Judges is studying God's covenant with the Hebrew people.**
2. **God gave instructions for holy living and proper worship.**
3. **God expressly prohibited the making of carved images and idols (Exodus20:4; 34:17;)**

Lesson Context

Reflect on all that God provided for this nation.

1. **God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.**
2. **God sustained them through the wilderness.**
3. **God guided them into the land of promise.**
4. **Despite all of this, the people repeatedly failed to worship the Yahweh the most-high GOD.**

Lesson Outline

I. Misguided Worship

Judges 17:1–6

A. Stolen Silver (vv. 1–2)

B. Imaged Idol (vv. 3–4)

C. Private Priest (vv. 5–6)

II. Misguided Engagement

Judges 18:18–19, 27

A. Persuaded Priest (vv. 18–19)

B. Cruel Conquest (v. 27)

Judges 17:1–2

vs.1 Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim

vs.2 said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse—I have that silver with me; I took it.”

Then his mother said,
“The Lord bless you, my son!”

Judges 17:3

vs.3 When he returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, she said, “I solemnly consecrate my silver to the Lord for my son to make an image overlaid with silver. I will give it back to you.”

Judges 17:4

vs.4 So after he returned the silver to his mother, she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to a silversmith, who used them to make the idol.

And it was put in Micah's house,

Judges 17:5–6

vs.5 Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some household gods and installed one of his sons as his priest.

vs.6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

EXPOSITION SUMMARY JUDGES 17:1-6

1. Micah admits taking the 1,100 shekels.
2. His mother blesses him and dedicates silver to forge an idol—contradicting God's command.
3. A silversmith makes the idol.
4. Micah creates a shrine, making his son priest.
5. With no king, everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

Discussion Questions – Judges 17

1 What dangers arise when people follow their own preferences instead of God's instructions?

2 How does Micah's private priesthood illustrate unauthorized religious leadership?

3 How can we guard against similar misguided worship today?

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER – Judges 17

Personal preferences can lead to idolatry and disobedience.

Unauthorized worship and leadership cause spiritual confusion.

Judges 17:6 shows the chaos when there is no godly authority.

Prioritize Scripture-based obedience and communal accountability.

Judges 18:18–19

vs.18 When the five men went into Micah's house and took the idol, the ephod and the household gods, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

vs.19 They answered him, "Be quiet! Don't say a word. Come with us and be our father and priest. Isn't it better that you serve a tribe and clan in Israel as priest rather than just one man's household?"

Judges 18:27

vs. 27 Then they took what Micah had made, and his priest, and went on to Laish, against a people at peace and secure. They attacked them with the sword and burned down their city.

EXPOSITION SUMMARY JUDGES 18:18-19

1. Danite spies steal Micah's idol, ephod, idol gods, and priest.
2. The Levite accepts their offer and leaves Micah.
3. The Danites conquer peaceful Laish, destroy it, and settle there.
4. Religious authority is misused; violence is against peace.
5. The passage calls for obedience, humility, teaching, remembrance, and accountability.

Discussion Questions – Judges 18

1. What are the consequences of religious leaders serving personal or political interests?

2. How does the Danites' conquest reflect misguided engagement with others?

3. How can we apply this passage to obedience and communal responsibility?

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER – Judges 18

Misused religious authority leads to division and violence.

Serving God requires humility and faithfulness—not personal gain.

Scripture knowledge and practice protect communities and faith.

Remember: "Know Scripture and put it into practice."

Conclusion

When everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes rather than that which is right in God's eyes.

There is a danger in establishing one's own rules-and every person plays a role in either furthering obedience to God or perpetuating degradation and dishonesty.

CHOOSE CHRIST OVER CULTURE.

ROMANS 6:6-7

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

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“Everything’s better when we’re together.”