

Judges Series

Lesson #57

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**How to Handle the
Devil's World
Judges 6:35–40**

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

**How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites**

Incomplete obedience

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson (the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

Chap. 17–18

and the

People

Chap. 19–21

Romans 12:2: sets up the conflict between the thinking of the Spirit of the Age and what the Bible teaches.

James 1:5–6: describes the believer that is weak in faith, and is tossed about by different life situations, lacks stability and is called a *dipsychos*, or double-minded man, “unstable in all his ways”.

James 4:4: describes friendship or affinity with the thinking of the world, the spirit of the age, to be hostility with God.

James 4:8: The solution for the double minded is confession and then “transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Rom. 12:2

As I use the terms, human viewpoint (HVP) = paganism = worldly thinking = what conforms to the spirit of the age.

Paganism: In general, religious and ethical systems other than Christianity. Millard J. Erickson, *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*

Paganism is the equivalent of HVP or worldliness, the spirit of the age that is not informed by the biblical revelation of God.

Worldliness (paganism) is the natural inclination of our sin natures.

Worldliness is manifested in a multitude of different religions, philosophies, and syncretistic mixtures of these.

Every believer will struggle with the ideas of the spirit of the age, because this reflects the world within which we live.

1. A double-minded man is someone who has a soul filled with a lot of HVP thinking.

What is human viewpoint thinking?

HVP is the opposite of divine viewpoint (DVP).

Divine viewpoint (DVP) expresses God's thinking on any subject, any value, any way or method of thinking, or making decisions, or evaluating situations in life.

We can also call this way of thinking, wisdom, TRUTH, the only correct way of thinking.

The only source of DVP is the Bible, the Word of God, which is called the thinking, the mind of Christ in 1 Cor. 2:16. The only way we can know the thinking of Christ is to know the Word of God.

2. In contrast, DVP produces skillful living, inner joy, happiness, tranquility, stability. This is the opposite of running your life on feelings, emotion, the opinions of fallible human beings. HVP will always lead to instability, failure, self-induced misery, because HVP is always based on arrogance, man as the measure, rather than God's Word as the measure.

3. The root problem in this world is that everyone of us develops within the cultural framework of HVP. Everyone of us has an affinity for some HVP ideas.

And the world seeks to press us into its mold. The pressure is always there.

How are we to resist?

Ex. 20:2, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

1. He grew up in a culture that was highly paganized. It was not purely Canaanite in its thinking, but it had absorbed much of the spirit of the Canaanite culture and adopted a syncretistic view of reality.

2. This is seen in the home life of Gideon. He has some vague understanding of the Exodus, of God's promise to Israel, but it is pretty shallow. Like a vast number of Christians today.

3. Gideon went along with his family until there was a “come to the angel of the Lord” moment in Judges 6:11–25. At this point, because He was confronted personally by God, he knew he had to make a decision.

John 15:18, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

John 15:19, “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Option 1: Failure to address the realities of the situation.

Biblical example: Solomon

Problem: Solomon accepted the world's methodology for national alliances. This led him to secure treaties with surrounding countries by marrying the princesses of those royal families.

1 Kings 11:1, “But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—

1 Kings 11:2, “from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.’ Solomon clung to these in love.

1 Kings 11:3, “And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.”

3 examples of what you can do:

- 1. You can go along to get along.**
- 2. You can quit quietly and go somewhere else.**
- 3. You can fight it in a gracious, humble manner.**

Daniel

Dan. 1:5, “And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.”

Dan. 1:12, “ ‘Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.

Dan. 1:13, “ ‘Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king’s delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.’ ”

Dan. 2:46, “Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

Dan. 2:47, “The king answered Daniel, and said, ‘Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.’

Dan. 2:48, “Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.

Dan. 2:49, “Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.”

Dan. 3:8, “Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.”

Dan. 3:12, “ ‘There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.’

Dan. 3:13, “Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

Dan. 3:14, “Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, ‘Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?’ ”

Dan. 3:15, “ ‘Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?’ ”

Dan. 3:16, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

Dan. 3:17, “ ‘If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.’ ”

Dan. 3:24, “Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?’ They answered and said to the king, ‘True, O king.’

Dan. 3:25, “ ‘Look!’ he answered, ‘I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.’

Dan. 3:26, “Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.’ Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.”

Dan. 3:28, “Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

Dan. 3:29, “ ‘Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.’ ”

2 Cor. 10:3, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

2 Cor. 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

2 Cor. 10:5, “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”