The Most Important Story You’ve Never Heard

Judges 17

There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. 2 And he said to his mother, “The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it.”

Ok, so who is this dude? His name? What do you know about him? Seem like a good dude? You know that 1,100 pieces of silver that went missing? I was standing there when you cursed the person who took it? Yeah, that was totally me. Gotcha mom!

Now her cursing turns to blessing.

And his mother said, “Blessed be my son by the Lord.” 3 And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, “I dedicate the silver to the Lord from my hand for my son…

Oh, well that sounds nice! She decides to set aside the money for the Lord! Well, keep reading…

“…to make a carved image and a metal image. Now therefore I will restore it to you.”

Ok, this woman says, “I am so glad all of this money has been restored to me by my gracious son! Thank you, God! You know what I wanna do for you, Lord? I’m going to make a couple of idols for you, Lord!”

Messed up stuff, man.

4 So when he restored the money to his mother, his mother took 200 pieces of silver and gave it to the silversmith, who made it into a carved image and a metal image. And it was in the house of Micah. 5 And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained[a] one of his sons, who became his priest.

Ok, so what’s wrong with this picture?

What’s really wrong with this picture?

And by the way we’re about to read a verse that appears 4 times in the book of Judges. And it really illustrates what’s going on in the entire book. It serves as a heads up, to say hey, you’re about to read something really jacked up.

6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ok, what’s the problem? No more Moses. No more Joshua. No David at this time.

When there is no authority, anybody can invent the rules.

Listen, this may be one of the most spot-on verses in the Bible when it comes to identifying the day and age in which we live and find ourselves.

When God is not the King, who becomes the king?

When God’s Word does not rule, where do we turn?

When people decide that God’s Word is not “right,” where do they turn?

“Well, that may be right for you, but it’s not for me.”

Well, that’s your religion and this is mine.

That’s the Bible’s opinion but I’ll just have my opinion. There’s no real way to know the truth. Truth is all relative.

When our eyes define what is right and wrong, we need to have our eyes checked.

We elevate ourselves above God.

Well, I told you it was going to get jacked up.

7 Now there was a young man of Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there. 8 And the man departed from the town of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn where he could find a place. And as he journeyed, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah. 9 And Micah said to him, “Where do you come from?” And he said to him, “I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to sojourn where I may find a place.”

Ok, what is so special about the tribe of Levi?

10 And Micah said to him, “Stay with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten pieces of silver a year and a suit of clothes and your living.” And the Levite went in. 11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons. 12 And Micah ordained the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. 13 Then Micah said, “Now I know that the Lord will prosper me, because I have a Levite as priest.”

So many things wrong with this picture.

He buys a priest. I’ve all this money. I’ve created all these gods. I’ve got this suhweet ephod. I’m going to buy me a genuine priest. Now I’ve got a priest from the tribe of Levi.

Now God will bless me! I’ve got all this stuff! Look how blessed I am! And more good stuff is on the way! I’ve got this Levitical priest!

And there’s something scary about this story here, too.

Because isn't this the way a lot of people in our world are doing religion today?

Hey, look I’ve got an ephod, and I’ve got this holy place, my shrine, just like the temple has a holy place! But who needs to go to the temple when you can have it all right here in your house! I’ve even got my own priest! Oh, and be sure to bow down to my gods on the way into my shrine!

You know what? Maybe I’ll go to this church. Or better yet, I’ll start a new church! And hey, I kinda like the way this church over here does things, and we love the Bible! And by the Bible I mean that I like most of the things Jesus has to say, but I don’t really like Paul, I also like some of the teachings of Buddha, and I really like this in worship, and so maybe I’ll mix this in. But that part of the Bible is old and it just doesn’t fit with our culture today so I’ll just leave that out.

How do you get there?

Guys, culture does not get to decide what is right and wrong. God doesn’t look to you and say, “Hmmmm…can you guys help me out? Do you guys think you can define what’s right and wrong for me? I’m having a really hard time with this? Your eyes are better than mine.

Our culture is so religiously jacked up.

Your Life Lessons

1. You tell me.

Philip’s Life Lessons

1. Don’t depend on your mother or father to tell you what God wants. (Where do you need to look to learn what God wants?)

We don’t know for sure, but it wouldn’t be crazy to think that Micah was raised in a spiritually confused household. When you see his mother’s response to him turning in that money and deciding to create a couple of idols, you begin to understand where Micah probably got the idea of inventing his own religion.

You can’t always depend on your parents to tell you what God wants. If you want to know what God wants, look and see. Micah could’ve done that, but he did what was right in his own eyes.

1. When our eyes define what is right and wrong, we need to have our eyes checked.
2. God must be the King.

John 17:17.

1. What you and I call blessings may not always be blessings.

I heard a story this week…cutting hair. Talking about her week. I prayed about it this week. And I’m at peace with having an abortion.

Listen, I’m not saying that because I think she’s stupid. I just want to show you the logic behind some of the so-called religion that’s out there.

1. It doesn’t matter how good I feel about it, I can still be as wrong as wrong can be.