

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

YOU BE THE JUDGE: A SERIES ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Lesson Six = A Chip Off the Old Block

Judges 9:1-10:5

Introduction: The background to our story shows a generation of people that witnessed Gideon save Israel from the Midianites. Gideon was a man of faith and courage, but he was also foolish. When offered the crown, he flatly refused it with the stirring words, *I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you: the Lord shall rule over you!* If his words were right, his heart was wrong. Now, leading the rebellion of God's people, will be Gideon's own son, Abimelech. Let's study and see what happens

Discussion:

I. The Linage of Gideon (9:1-6)

- A. Abimelech's Ambition (v.1)
- B. Abimelech's Aspiration (vs.2-3)
- C. Abimelech's Action (vs.4-6)

II. The Legend of Jotham (9:7-21)

- A. Jotham Lives - A Momentous Mistake (v.7, cf. v.5)
- B. Jotham Speaks - A Man With A Mouth (v.7)
- C. Jotham Preaches - Metaphors on the Mountain (vs.8-15)
- D. Jotham Challenges - A Moment of Magnitude (vs.16-21)

III. The Leadership of Abimelech (9:22-57)

- A. Abimelech's Reign (v.22)
- B. Abimelech's Rival (vs.23-37)
- C. Abimelech's Rout (vs.38-49)
- D. Abimelech's Ruin (vs.50-55)
- E. God's Rebuke (vs.56-57)

IV. The Leadership of Tola (10:1-2)

- A. The Example of Tola (v.1)
- B. The Experience of Tola (v.2)
- C. The Death of Tola (v.3)

V. The Leadership of Jair (10:3-5)

- A. The Calling of Jair (v.3)
- B. The Influence of Jair (v.4)
- C. The Death of Jair (v.4)

Conclusion: While the first part of our study looked grim, it ended on a positive note. Why? The heart of the lesson is that children follow the example of their father. Gideon set a good example most of the time but made some ignorant decisions. Those mistakes led to the punishment of his children and grandchildren. By the end of our lesson we can consider the examples of Tola and Jair, saviors sent by God who delivered His people from themselves. They followed their heavenly Father and all of the children of God benefited from that obedience. We must stop ruling ourselves (like Abimelech), and stop complaining and whining and running (like Jotham) and accept the Rule of God (like Tola and Jair). There is only one king of the Lord's people, and that is the King of Kings! What happens next? We will see

