

Judges, Sermon #33

Judges 9

Abimelech— How he got the kingdom

How he kept it

And how he lost it

Three periods of Abimelech's political career

Let us pray.

Someone may ask why did God allow Abimelech to become ruler in the first place.

Even today when a good ruler comes into office, many folks say, "God raised him up."

What about the wicked ruler?

God permits him to come to the throne also.

Can God us a wicked ruler? Ungodly ruler? Cyrus, Nebuchadnezzar, Artaxerxes

Oftentimes, we get the ruler we deserve!

Romans 13:1, ". . . *There is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*"

The Bible says that the living may know the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men,
and giveth it to whomsoever He will . . . (Daniel 4:17).

Vs. 22

Three years seemed like forever to Jotham.

His brothers were killed—he was in hiding and he may have wondered why Abimelech
wasn't punished sooner.

Don't fret when it comes to evildoers (Psalm 37:7-18).

We are not alone when we wonder why evil seems to prevail.
God does deal with sin, but He does it in His own time and His own way.

Someone said, “Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small.”

Losing the kingdom

Last time, Abimelech butchered Gaal (Gayle) and his men, but that wasn't enough.
He then murdered the Shechemites and those who ran to the Tower of Baal—he
burned them alive.
But he wasn't done.

Judges 9:50

This city was about ten miles from Shechem.
Apparently they had joined in the general rebellion against Abimelech.
He went there with his army to punish them as well.

Like the people before, the citizens fled to their tower.
They barricaded themselves in.

Vs. 51—Abimelech had seen this before.
So Abimelech decided to use the same method of attack/same strategy that he used so
successfully at Shechem.

But he made a mistake of getting too close to the tower, and a woman threw a piece of
millstone on his head (vs. 52).
(12-18” in diameter, 2-3” thick, 20-30 pounds) fractured his skull

Vs. 53-55

Abimelech experienced disgrace: He was killed by a woman, which was a disgrace to a soldier

The fact that his armor-bearer finished the job with a sword—but that didn't change anything; for centuries later, Abimelech's death was remembered as being accomplished by a woman (II Samuel 11:21).

Abimelech lost his life and lost his kingdom.

The parable pronounced by his half-brother Jotham was fulfilled on both Abimelech and the people of Shechem (Judges 9:20).

As Jotham prophesied, the bramble king would burn Shechem and this prophecy was fulfilled.

Those who followed the evil leader suffered.

Psalm 34:21a, *"Evil shall slay the wicked . . ."*

★ Proverbs 21:12b, *"God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness."*

Abimelech's death was a clear picture of the judicial judgment of God falling upon a person.

Vs. 56-57

The dramatic picture painted by the story of Abimelech is unmistakable: it is the clear, striking conclusion that sin and evil must face the reciprocal, judicial judgment of God.

That is, a person reaps exactly what he sows.
Justice—a true justice—will be executed by God.

Unmistakably, God repaid the evil committed by Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem.

God carried out the curse of Jotham (Joe Thum)

Both Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem paid for their horrible crimes. Both suffered the heavy judgment of God—the very judgment they deserved.

A person reaps exactly what he sows.

If a person sins, he will reap the results of sin.

If evil is committed by a person, that person will reap evil.

This is what is known as the judicial or just judgment of God.

A person reaps exactly what he sows, no more no less.

Galatians 6:7-8, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Job 4:8, "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."

Hosea 8:7, "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind . . ."

Proverbs 5:22, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

Thus ends the story of Gideon and seeds of destruction.

Let us stand for closing invitation.