

"Breaking the Cycle with Grace"

Lesson 1: Faithful to the Unfaithful

January 7

Introductory Stuff

The Promise: Read Genesis 15:8-21

The Cycle:

| Rest | Deliverance | Apostasy | Oppression | Oppression

The Purpose: Judges 21:25

Two Minute Talks

Chapter I

- 1. (1:1-26) Evaluate: The health of a congregation is not dependent on its pastors and teachers.
- 2. (1:27-36) Discuss some of the ways that Christians (including us!) fail to fully carry out God's directives and the subsequent consequences of that.

Chapter 2

- 3. (2:1-5) Is this true repentance?
- 4. (2:6-23) What are the warning signs that a congregation might be forgetting what the LORD has done?

Chapter 3

5. (3:1-6; esp. v. 4) In what ways is the Lord "testing us to see whether we will keep the way of the Lord?"

Conclusion

Our section ends with the Israelites intermarrying with the surrounding nations and "serving **their** gods," not only the LORD who gave them the land. Doesn't that strike you as unbelievable then what we just celebrated about God these past weeks in the Christmas season? God is faithful to the unfaithful. Now we see the full beauty of the angel's command at Christmas: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save <u>his</u> people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) Amazing Grace!

"Homework"

If God wills it, we will attempt to cover Judges 3:7-4 next week. Please feel free to read it through before next week. God's blessings on your week!