

Discussion Guide

April 8, 2018

These Are The Days of the Judges - 1



1. As you anticipate studying the Book of Ruth, which one of Pastor Jim’s reasons appeal to you the most? Check the right one(s) and share why?
 - The Book will address the sovereignty and providence of God in suffering.
 - The Book will reveal how godly men and women can rise to the top in a man-dominated world.
 - The Book will show where to find rest and refuge.
 - The Book will point to living in a world that is failing morally.

2. Read [Judges 2:16-23](#)
3. The “days of the judges” was cyclical: Repent → Restored → Failure → Repent, etc. If someone came to you for help and said their spiritual life was up and down, up and down, how might you help them, Scripturally? [Consider [James 4:8-9](#) for example] _____

4. We too live in “the days of the Judges”. In the book of Judges, the people needed a king who would lead them eternally and not fail himself. In the book of Judges, the people needed a king who would guide them through righteous and holy statutes. In the book of Judges, the people needed a king who save them from evil and lead them into righteousness. Pastor Jim identified 4 ways that King Jesus has delivered us from the present power of sin. They can be entitled: The New Birth; Union with Christ; Fatherly Discipline; and the Indwelling Spirit. What other ways does Christ help us to overcome sin and temptation in our lives? _____

5. Pastor Jim read from [2 Timothy 3:2-4](#) in the message. In what ways have you observed these “last days” characteristics in your life and relationships? How accurate is that portrayal in today’s world? Continue to read 2 Timothy 3. What was Paul’s advice to Timothy considering this diagnosis? _____

6. When the Church looks to other deliverers (apart from Christ) they will continue to fall into sin and oppression. They serve for a time but are destined to fail. What graphic picture did God paint of Israel's choice of what would make them happy. See [Jeremiah 2:11-13](#). How does that word picture help us see the value of Christ and the emptiness of false saviors? _____

Personal Question

7. The judges or deliverers were temporary and flawed. It is possible that we can mistakenly seek other things or people to meet our needs, other than Christ. These are called "functional saviors". In a book by Jerry Bridges¹ helps us identify these saviors by answering the following questions:
1. I am preoccupied with _____.
 2. If only _____, then I would be happy.
 3. I get my sense of significance from _____.
 4. I would protect and preserve _____ at any cost.
 5. I fear losing _____.
 6. The thing that gives me the greatest pleasure is _____.
 7. When I lose _____ I get angry, resentful, frustrated, anxious, or depressed.
 8. For me, life depends on _____.

Has anyone or anything become "a functional savior" in your life? Identify it. Repent of it. See it considering the Gospel. Pray for deliverance. Walk by the Spirit. Confide in a prayer partner.

¹ "Sometimes we look to other things to satisfy and fulfill us—to 'save' us. These 'functional saviors' can be any object of dependence we embrace that isn't God. They become the source of our identity, security, and significance because we hold an idolatrous affection for them in our hearts. They preoccupy our minds and consume our time and resources. They make us feel good and somehow even make us feel righteous. Whether we realize it or not, they control us, and we worship them." (Bridges & Bevington, [The Bookends of the Christian Life](#), p. 72)