

“The Minor Judges”

Sermon Notes

➤ **Even faithful stewards have limited influence.**

**Consider these Judges, who stewarded their resources:*

1. Tola — Location (10:1-2)
2. Jair — Time (10:3-5)
3. Ibzan — Capital (12:8-10)
4. Elon — Inheritance (12:11-12)
5. Abdon — Offspring (12:13-15)

➤ **Jesus is the unlimited Savior who offers “pardon for sin” and a “peace that endureth” (John 20:19, 21, 26).**

Next Week: Judges 13:1-25 - “Samson, Part 1”

Community Group Study Guide

Getting Started: Reflection

When you reach the end of your life, what do you hope to have accomplished? Another way of asking this is, what are your life goals? Or, what's on your bucket list?

What do you hope to leave behind? What influence do you hope you will have made on other people?

Context

1. Read Judges 2:11-23. What does this overarching summary of the history of Judges teach you about what happened during the time of the minor judges (Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon)? What can you safely assume about God? About each judge? About the people of Israel?
2. Tola and Jair came “after Abimelech”. Skim Judges 9 and recall the instability that Abimelech created in the land of Israel.
3. Ibzan came “after Jephthah”. Skim Judges 11-12 and recall the instability that Jephthah created in the land of Israel.

Observation

1. These men are called “minor” Judges because relatively little is said about them, in contrast to the other six Judges. That said, just how much do you learn about each Judge in just a few verses:

1. Shamgar

2. Tola

3. Jair

4. Ibzan

5. Elon

6. Abdon

2. What words or ideas are repeated in each minor Judge's story?
What are the key words or phrases?

Meaning

1. Overall, the history of the Judges is about Israel's downward spiral into rebellious idolatry. We've seen the cycle of the Judges elsewhere. The time of these minor Judges paints a little different story, one of relative peace and prosperity. How so?
2. What themes connect to Jesus Christ?
3. What do you learn about how are all people like these Judges?

Application

1. How does the lasting influence (or lack thereof) of these Judges upon their fellow Israelites shift your expectations for success in making disciples?
2. What might be different now that Jesus Christ has come? How does his saving work change your expectations for influencing others and making disciples?
3. Where have you fallen short of following Jesus? Where have you fallen short of making disciples of others?
4. Who is one person that you will disciple this week? What will you do with that person, to follow Jesus together?