

Judges 2:6-19

Outline for the Congregation

Not Knowing the Lord or His Works (vv6-10)

- The generation after Joshua knew *about* God and His works – but traditions and commandments apart from “covenantal” relationship leads to “abandoning the Lord” (v12)
- Snapshot of knowing God: 1. Presence 2. Pity 3. Power 4. Protection 5. Path

Abandoning The Lord And Serving Others (vv11-15)

- The people of Israel chose to serve the local gods and lived as enemies of God – God gave them over to their desires and they suffered for it
- What desires drive us and where do we seek to have them met? What happens if we get what we want?

Changing Stubborn Ways (vv16-19)

- God, moved with pity (v18), would send help – but the cycle of getting relief and then turning from God and going back to their ways continued (v19 - the pattern of the book of Judges)
- Temporary Judges brought temporary change – but God’s eternal Son brings permanent change
- following Christ (knowing God: John 17:3) entails presence, pity, power, protection, path - which are lacking in your understanding and experience of God?

Questions for reflection

For reflection this week, consider the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “Thus says the Lord: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.’”

1. What do you boast in? What are you proud of that you want others to know about? What is your identity rooted in (what about your life provides social credibility)?
2. What is it about the Lord that should make us boast in understanding and knowing Him?
3. What would help you understand and know the Lord more? What do you need to grow (information, advice, the practice of living faithfully, an experience, healing)?

4. Knowing God includes: a. His presence (believing He is active in our world and our lives) b. His pity (trusting God is concerned for us) c. His power (remembering God has demonstrated and revealed His great power) d. His protection (believing God exercises His power in protection of those who hope in Him) e. His path (trust that the ways of God are right with an eagerness to do them and so walk with Him). Which of these five prove to be places where you connect with God, can trust, and feel that you know and understand God? Which do you struggle with?

5. What things do you desire that, if you got what you wanted, you would find yourself miserable?

6. How does Jesus help us to deepen our understanding of God's presence, pity, power, protection and path?