

**Judges 10:1-18**  
**Metastatic Idolatry**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** One of the hardest things for us to understand is the anger of God. What does it teach us about him? What does it have to do with us?

**I) God was furious with Israel**

**A) His fury described**

**B) Why was he so angry?**

- They forsook him despite a long history of care
- Not the first time
- Idolatry all over the place
- They were not really repentant

Examining ourselves

**II) What does God's anger in Judges 10 teach us about him?**

**A) Not that he is petty, insecure, or defensive**

His anger is not like ours

**B) Not that he was expecting Israel to earn something from him**

- His relationship with them was grace-based
- His fury could not have arisen from their failure to be perfect

**C) God is a person (better—three Persons) for whom relationship is sacred and inviolable**

- Open marriage?
- Vending machine?
- God did not have to love us, but having chosen to...

**III) Where does our hope lie in the face of God's anger?**

In God himself—for whom breach of covenant is unthinkable

*v. 16: ...he became impatient over the misery of Israel.*

### Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) *Judges 10.7* tells us that *the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel*, and then goes on to document the anger. Describe the anger of God as it comes to expression in *Judges 10*. What difficulties, if any, do you have with the notion of God being angry? With the expression of his anger in *Judges 10*?
- 2) Why did God become so angry with Israel in *Judges 10*? Does this make sense to you?
- 3) Reflect on Dale Davis' words: "There is a difference between a prodigal who comes to his sense and returns home and a whore who pleads for her husband's security only until she finds someone else to take her on."
- 4) Do you agree with the following: "Our greatest problem when it comes to evaluating ourselves morally and spiritually is that we don't see with God's eyes (see *v. 6: ...they sinned in the eyes of the Lord*—as opposed to their own eyes). Like fish, so immersed in water that they don't feel wet, we are so immersed in godlessness that we don't feel godless. This, in large part, is why passages like *Judges 10*, which speak of God being furious with people, make no sense." If you agree, what steps might you take to see spiritual reality more clearly?
- 5) How is God's jealousy different from Othello's...from a Jr. High School student's...from a stalker's?
- 6) Reflect on the following: "God's anger in *Judges 10* teaches us that God is a Person who loves (better, three Persons bound together in holy love, for whom relationship is sacred and inviolable). Love without loyalty is not love, if we are to draw our definition of love from the Trinity. For a couple at a wedding to say "I love you" and not mean, "I am committed come what may," by those words, is to deny the essence of what they are declaring. So, when God enters into covenant with us, we can expect inviolable commitment from him and we can also expect that he is looking for the same in return from us. Our breach of covenant insults and assaults deepest Reality at its core."
- 7) In *Romans 8:1*, Paul declares, "There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." This sounds like divine anger is a thing of the past. Does this mean that God has changed? If so, why is he described as "a consuming fire" in *Hebrews 12:29*? How does the phrase "in Christ Jesus" in *Romans 8:1* help us answer these questions.