



## Sermon Discussion Guide<sup>1</sup> *Judges 19* | Carl Trueman

### “The Image Defaced”

Sunday Morning, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Big Idea:* Judges 19 shows us what true humanity *should* and *shouldn't* look like under God's sovereignty.

1. Have you ever experienced a scenario where the absence of leadership devolved into some level of chaos?
2. **Context:** How does understanding the context of the whole Book of Judges give perspective to the events of chapter 19?
3. **Freedom:** When Israel rejected God's Law, they became a law to themselves. “Once we reject the Lord as king, anything is up for grabs.” When a person rejects God's rule, how does that effect their freedom? Do any Scripture passages come to mind?<sup>2</sup>
4. **Hospitality:** “What happens when you are hospitable to somebody? You're treating them as another human being whose worth something.” Take a moment and discuss the theme of hospitality in Judges 19.
  - a. What do you think are some misconceptions among Christians today regarding hospitality?
  - b. Can you recall a time you were shown hospitality that was particularly meaningful to you?
5. **Love:** Martin Luther said, “God's love does not *find*, but *creates* that which is lovely to it.”<sup>3</sup> In other words, everything in you that is lovely to God is there because *he* has caused it to be. Do you think Christians today understand this? How does this encourage you? ...challenge you?
6. **Faithful Conference:** For those who attended the Faithful Conference, what jumped out at you from any of the sessions? What did you learn?<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SDGs from the Sunday morning sermon are available on the [small groups page](#) of the church website.

<sup>2</sup> Some references about God's Law providing the context of *true* freedom include Rom 6:16-18, Jas 1:25, Psa 19:7-8.

<sup>3</sup> Regarding this, Trueman said that “God's love is not only *quantitatively* different, but *qualitatively*.”

<sup>4</sup> **Saturday Evening:** “The Faustian Self” **Sunday School:** “Are Bodies Important?”

**Morning Worship:** “The Image Defaced” **Evening Worship:** “Are Women Human?”

## General Outline

- I. Introduction
  - a. The Book of Judges was about a culture that was spiraling downwards.
  - b. Chapter 19 is the perhaps the lowest point morally in Israel's history.
- II. Body: What can we learn from this passage about what true humanity should look like under the sovereignty of God?
  - a. *1<sup>st</sup> "The terror, disorientation, and moral vortex that is human life without God."*
    - i. No king in Israel: Israel has become a law unto herself.
    - ii. "Once we reject the Lord as king, anything is up for grabs."
    - iii. "In rejecting God as king, we reject that which makes us truly human."
  - b. *2<sup>nd</sup> Sin is defacing the image of God (Hospitality in Judges 19).*
    - i. First half: excess
    - ii. Second half: absence
    - iii. Hospitality is central to biblical ethics.
    - iv. Qualification for elder.
    - v. "Our god is a hospitable god. Those made in his image, those redeemed by the blood of his son are to be hospitable people. It is to be one of the marks of who we are."
    - vi. One of the ways that we can reach the culture is through hospitality.
    - vii. "What happens when you are hospitable to somebody? You're treating them as another human being whose worth something."
    - viii. It must be key to a Christian strategy of sharing the gospel in our current climate.
  - c. *3<sup>rd</sup> Sodom is alive and well in Israel.*
    - i. Gen 19 parallel
    - ii. The people of God are indistinguishable from the people outside.
    - iii. "Is it I, Lord?"
  - d. *4<sup>th</sup> The nature of true love.*
    - i. The Levite was obliged as this woman's husband to sacrifice himself for her. Yet he sacrifices her to save his own skin.
      - 1. Michael Foote, "Greater love hath no man than this; that he lay down his friends for his life."
    - ii. Luther: "God's love does not find but creates that which is lovely to it."