

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GUIDE: October 3, 2010

Route 66 (a spiritual journey through God's 66 books)

"DRIVING IN CIRCLES"

Highway: Judges



TALK ABOUT IT

1. What changes in attitude and action did 9/11/01 bring about in America?
2. Why doesn't 9/11 affect us as much today as in 2001?

DIG INTO IT

The book of Judges is like seeing a movie rerun 12 times with different characters but never getting it right. The movie could be titled: "The Sin Cycle" (Sin-Punishment-Repentance-Deliverance – Repeat!). When Israel entered Canaan God told the Israelites to drive out all the Canaanites so their pagan culture and immoral religion did not influence them. Joshua carried out phase one of the campaign. The 12 tribes were to mop up the rest. But they did not do God's will.

1. The story of Gideon is one of the 12 reruns in the book of Judges.

What did Israel do that angered God?

What did God do to discipline Israel?

What did the Israelites do when they were impoverished?

What did God do when Israel cried out for help?

Read Judges 6:1-14 to find out...

2. Why is the wording of the angel of the Lord to Gideon almost laughable when God calls Gideon "mighty warrior" (v.12) and "go in the strength you have and save Israel"? Note where Gideon is standing when the angel spoke to him (v. 11 - a "winepress" was a deep hole in the ground) and how Gideon responds to the angel (6:15).

3. 135,000 Midianite soldiers vs. 32,000 Israelite soldiers of Gideon – who has the odds to win? It's a no-brainer. Yet the Lord says to Gideon, "You have too many men." What was the final number Gideon was given by the Lord to conquer the Midianites and why such a number? Read Judges 7:7, 15

4. Gideon served Israel for 40 years and the country followed the Lord and enjoyed peace. What happened after Gideon died? Read Judges 8:33-34.

DISCUSS IT

1. Pride is an unduly high opinion of oneself; exaggerated self-esteem. What makes pride such a key element in rebellion against God and his will?

2. Tell of a time when God was telling you to give him the glory and not yourself.

3. The last verse of Judges says, “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” While we are saved by the grace of God through Jesus, why is obedience such an important part of the Christian life? (First discuss then read John 14:21)