

**Everyone Did What Was Right In Their Own Eyes: Part II**  
**The Grass Is Greener Syndrome**

1. Can you think of some aspect of your life that you would change if you could?

This week we will again look at Judges 17 and 18, this time examining the lives of the Levite and the Tribe of Dan. Each had been given a particular allotment by God. Did they appreciate God's choice for them? Do we appreciate God's choice for us?

Stop and Pray - Lord, show me all the truths You have for me in this section of Scripture.

Reread Judges 17-18. Refer to last week's lesson for your marked text.

The Levite:

2. What role had God intended for the Levites to play in Israelite society?  
Numbers 3:5-13

Deuteronomy 33:1, 8-10

3. Judges 18:30 tells us that this Levite was Jonathan, son of Gershom, son of Moses who was the son of Amram and thus from the Kohathite clan (Numbers 3:17, 27).
  - a. Was he of the family line to become a priest? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What was his Levitical job (Numbers 3:28-31, 4:15)?
  - c. Was he living where he should have been living? Compare Joshua 21:20-25 with Judges 17:7.

4. When this Levite decided to pursue what was right in his own eyes, what did he do? List all compromises he made in Judges 17-18. What should he have done instead?
- | <u>Compromise</u> | <u>What he should have done</u> |
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5. What goal or desires do you think drove the Levite to justify his disobedience? Support your answer with his actions in chapters 17 and 18. *Note:* In Hebrew, the phrase “to stay wherever he might find a place” in Judges 17:8 means “looking for a place to better himself.”
6. a. What benefit could come from the Levites living together in specific towns throughout the land?
- b. What wisdom could believers glean from this instruction to the Levites?
7. What warnings can we take from this Levite’s negative example in Judges 17-18?

The Tribe of Dan:

8. Look on a map to find where Dan’s allotment (described in Joshua 19:40-48), Shiloh, and Laish (or Leshem re-named Dan) are located. Describe the locations of these towns.

9.
  - a. When the Promised Land was divided between the tribes, who decided which tribe got which portion of the land? See Joshua 18:8-10.
  - b. What should this method of dividing the land have communicated to each tribe?
10. Besides leaving their God-given allotment, what other sinful actions did the tribe of Dan take part in? List all areas of compromise found in Judges 18.
11. What goals or desires do you think drove this tribe to pursue what was right in their own eyes? Support your answer with this section of Scripture.
12. In leaving their allotment, what impact did the tribe of Dan have on Israel (Judges 18:29-31, Revelation 7:4-8)?
13. What does Scripture have to say about contentment in any situation?  
Proverbs 14:30

Matthew 5:6

Philippians 4:11-13

I Timothy 6:6-8

Hebrews 13:5

14. If God has chosen a difficult allotment for you, what comfort can you find in the following verses?  
Jeremiah 29:11-13

Romans 8:28

Philippians 1:6

15. Share any experiences or verses with which God has encouraged you to be content in your life situation.
16. Is there a difference between sin and its consequences and having been given a difficult allotment by God? How would you explain these concepts to a friend?
17. Review this week's lesson. What attitude does God want you to have about your God given allotment? Why?

*Heart Check:* Are you unhappy or discontented with the allotment God has chosen for you? Are you looking at other people's allotments and wishing they were yours? Are you angry with God or are you choosing to have victory in the allotment in which God has placed you? No matter what you see in others' lives, do you really want to be anywhere but in the situation God has chosen, to grow you into the woman or man God wants you to be?

Final Thoughts: Some tribes were given easy soil but others were given difficult soil. Some were given big battles to fight and some were able to conquer their territory more easily. Some tribes were given their own property whereas the Levites were required to trust in the Lord and others for everything. It was God who decided what each tribe needed and could handle to become all He wanted them to be. With God's help they could handle anything He sent their way.

We, too, are born into an inheritance. God chooses what family and life to place each one of us into (Psalm 139:16). We are not to look around in jealousy or comparison but to cling to God for victory in the allotment He has chosen for us. We are there for a purpose. God can use both hard and easy situations to mature us and call us back to Himself. Do we trust Him and His wisdom and, therefore, eagerly anticipate the eternal fruit that God can produce in our situation? Or are we bitter with envy and covetousness every day, thinking that God must have made a mistake?

Even if we have created a hard situation for ourselves through disobedience to God's loving parameters, God can use the difficulty of that place to draw us back to Himself. Let us return our focus to Him instead of envying those around us. Let us trust that He has our eternal benefit in mind as He hones us right where we are, until He leads us elsewhere.

Pray - Lord, give me a contentment and a peace that will radiate throughout my allotted inheritance. Use Your choice for me to spiritually refine me and to bring glory to You.

*"Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be." Psalm 139:16*

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