

BROKEN

HEROES

The Book of Judges



Trinity Church
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2020

“Houston, we have a problem”

The church (in general) has a problem with the Book of Judges. It is so earthy, so puzzling, so primitive, so violent—in a word, so strange, that the church can scarcely stomach it. As with many Old Testament books, the sentiment seems to be, ‘If we just study the epistles long enough, maybe it will go away.’

-- Dale Ralph Davis, *Such a Great Salvation*

“Houston, we have a problem”

“...Yet that is difficult to do with Judges. It’s so interesting. Only people who take tranquilizers before sitting down can doze off while they read it.”

-- Dale Ralph Davis, *Such a Great Salvation*

WARNING: Adult themes

“That was painful and uncomfortable. Made me want to leave.”

“I grew up in the church. My pastor never talked about these topics.”

“I grew up in a Christian family. I didn’t know that was even in the Bible.”

“I prefer the sermons to be positive and uplifting.”

“I want Sunday morning to be a safe place for me.”

“This is not an appropriate topic for the pulpit.”

“You’re trying too hard to be edgy and controversial”

WARNING: Adult themes

One occupational hazard of being a pastor: Well-intentioned people are constantly giving us a list of things that we can't talk about

Don't teach Revelation: you will divide the church

Don't teach on transgender, SSA: too controversial

Don't teach on pornography: too painful and shameful

Don't teach Song of Songs: can't discuss sex in the church

Don't teach on abuse: not an issue to be addressed from pulpit

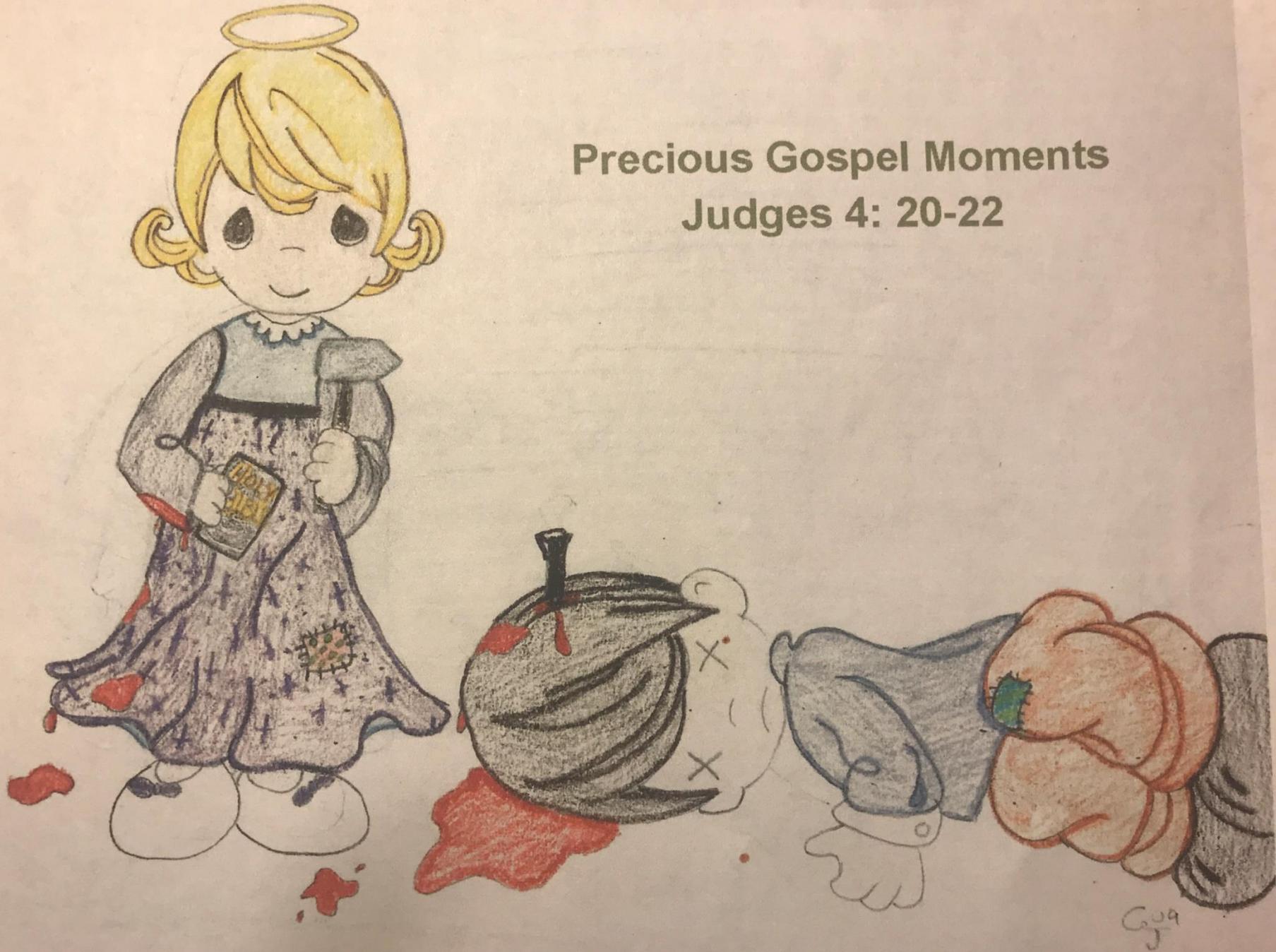
Don't teach Judges: it talks about gang rape, human sacrifice

WARNING: Adult themes

We won't sanitize these stories as we read them.

1. Are there Bible stories that are out-of-bounds?
2. Are we being more holy than God himself?
3. Are we dishonoring the text and those who suffered?

Precious Gospel Moments
Judges 4: 20-22



WARNING: Adult themes

We won't sanitize these stories as we read them.

1. Are there Bible stories that are out-of-bounds?
2. Are we being more holy than God himself?
3. Are we dishonoring the text and those who suffered?
4. Are we perpetuating the 'lullaby affect'?

You hear a story over and over and become immune

WARNING: Adult themes

We won't sanitize these stories as we read them.

5. Are we saying we should *never* be uncomfortable?
6. Are we compartmentalizing: sacred vs. secular?
7. Are we being ethnocentric?

Westerners are sheltered from the harsher realities of ANE life typical for most of history.

Why should our culture/era be the standard?

WARNING: Adult themes

“This is why I love Trinity. We tackle tough topics.”

“I want to see how the Bible speaks to *all* of life.”

“That made me really uncomfortable. But in a really good way.”

“The realism in this church is deeply refreshing to me.”

“I know that ignoring the harsh realities of life will not make me a stronger person.”

“I’ve been in so many different churches over my lifetime. I’ve never been so excited to join a church.”

WARNING: Adult themes

Looking for Thomas Kinkaid? Precious Moments?

This may not be the class for you

Looking for a safe place?

Opening the Bible is a very dangerous act

First read when deployed to Korea for Foal Eagle (1997)

Leans heavily against a 'cream-puff Christianity'

Literary Work of Art

This is an intricately crafted story, an artistic masterpiece that will hold its own with the best of world literature. Although dark in its tone, it is profoundly beautiful in its structure and form, its pace and tempo, its meaning and magnitude.



Hebrew Humor

If you listen closely, you will hear the deep thunder of God's laughter in the background.

It's not a nervous giggle, but an earth-shaking belly laugh.

See Jesus

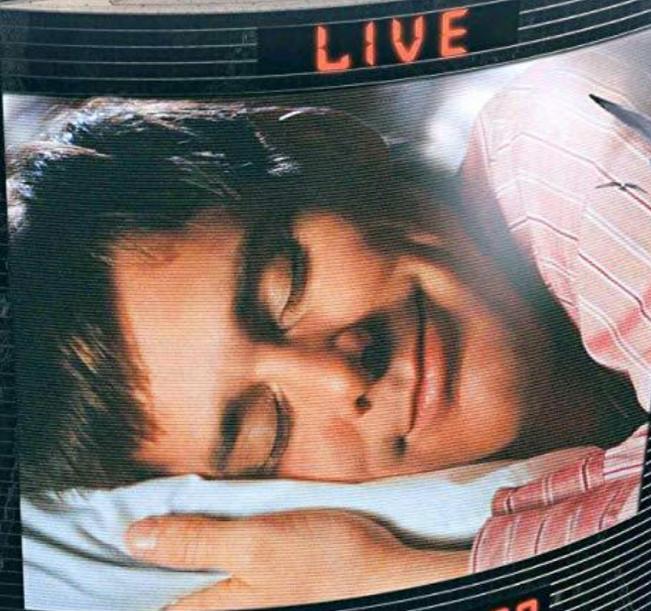
Each Judge reflects an aspect of Jesus' character.

If you combine these aspects of Jesus' character into a single composite...

If you fuse them and merge them into a single picture...

You have an astonishingly complete picture of the Messiah

J I M C A R R E Y



DAY 10,909

the **TRUMAN** show

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IN THEATRES JUNE 5



History

Moses

Joshua

Saul/David

Exodus

Conquest

JUDGES

Monarchy



Theme

God relentlessly rescues his underserving people through the mess their sin brings them into.

We never outgrow our need for God's grace. We need God's grace today just as much as the day we first believed.

A grace greater than all our sin.

Format

Want more discussion

Want a more flexible pace

Don't leave questions for the end

Don't expect self-contained units

Don't expect each session to end with Jesus

Parenting Priorities

Isolation vs. Inoculation?

Is your *primary* role as a parent to protect your kids' innocence?

Secular Sources – Liberal

The Coddling of the American Mind, by Jonathan Haidt and Greg Lukianoff:

The modern obsession with protecting kids from ‘feeling unsafe’ is 1 cause of rapid rise in depression, anxiety [CAM24]

3 categories [CAM23]: 1. Fragile (china cup) 2. Resilient (plastic cups). 3. Antifragile: require stressors in order to learn, adapt, grow (bones, muscles, children)

Raise your kids to be a fire (wind energizes it), not a candle (wind extinguishes it). [CAM23]

Secular Sources – Conservative

12 Rules for Life by Jordan Peterson

Many PTSD victims come from hyper-sheltered families where nothing terrible exists, everything is fairyland wonderful. [RFL 25]

Overprotected children can be brought low by their first real contact with failure or, worse, genuine malevolence. [RFL 133]

Question for parents: do you want to make your children safe or strong? [RFL 47]

What is your priority in raising children?

“...[We] can preserve our children's innocence; that belief drives the choices my wife and I make, from the education of our daughters (we homeschool) to what they read, where they go, what they see on TV (little to nothing). My daughter now is halfway to her ninth birthday, and to my knowledge, she has yet to hear a bonafide profanity... To preserve their innocence is to prolong their childhood.”

--famous Christian leader