

# **The Religion of Micah and His Mother**

**Judges 17:1-13**

## **Introduction:**

- A. The story of Micah and His mother is one of giving lip service to God, but practicing false religion.
  - 1. Notice their references to the Lord (vv. 2, 3, 13)
  - 2. They openly supported and practiced idolatry.
- B. The story of Micah and His mother illustrates three kinds of religion that many have today.

## **Discussion:**

### **I. The Religion of the Double Standard (vv. 2)**

- A. Micah's mother's attitude change upon learning Micah was the guilty one.
- B. We sometimes use a double standard of judgment.
  - 1. When it comes to ourselves versus others (cf. Matt. 7:1-6; Prov. 20:6)
    - a. You are a liar, I stretch the truth a little
    - b. You are selfish and covetous, I am a wise steward.
    - c. You are a busybody, I am a concerned friend.
  - 2. When it comes to our families versus others.
    - a. What we condemn in other, we defend or excuse in family members.
    - b. We excuse unfaithfulness of family members rather than rebuke as would others.
  - 3. When it comes to our friends.
    - a. Church should rebuke or discipline "sinners" – but not my friends.
    - b. We must put friendship with God first (Jas. 2:23; 4:4)
  - 4. Sometimes brethren reverse positions on vital issues after family and friends get involved.

### **II. The Religion of the Self Devised Standard (v. 6)**

- A. The world has rejected God as the King of their lives – do what is right in their own eyes.
- B. The nonreligious world follows its own standard – Humanism<sup>1</sup>
  - 1. We need to realize that we do not have the answers (Jer. 10:23)
  - 2. Such an attitude will lead to destruction (Isa. 47:10-11)
- C. The majority of the "Christian world" follows its own standards.
  - 1. Teach and practice doctrines of men (Matt. 15:9)
  - 2. Danger of following our own standard (Prov. 12:15; 14:12; 21:2; Gal. 1:6-9; John 12:48)

### **III. The Religion of Close Enough (v. 13).**

- A. It took more than a Levite priest for Micah to be right – but is was closer than first priest (v. 5)
- B. Many want to practice "horse shoe" religion – being close counts.
  - 1. Some think God is going to bless them just because they use the right name religiously.
  - 2. Many in the church are satisfied to just be close (cf. Jas. 2:10)
    - a. If don't have qualified elders and deacons – appoint the best you have.
    - b. "We may not do everything exactly as the Bible teaches – but we have love"
    - c. "I may not live like I ought to, but at least, I am not a hypocrite."
    - d. "I may not visit the sick and needy etc., but I support the church with attendance and money"
    - e. "I know I do not attend the services as I should, but I read and pray regularly at home."

## **Conclusion:**

- A. We need to rise above the kinds of religion discussed in this lesson.
- B. Let strive to judge righteously, follows God's standard and do all God commands exactly as He commands.

The basic material for this sermon came from a sermon by Eddie Bragwell called "The Story of Micah"

1. “Man is at last becoming aware that he alone is responsible for the realization of the world of his dreams, that he has within himself the power for its achievement. He must set intelligence and will to task” – Humanist Manifesto I

“No deity will save us, we must save ourselves.” – Humanist Manifesto II