

Kings & Kingdoms #1
The Pitfall of Discontent

Word

Scripture Reference

Judges 18:1-31

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes you content with your life?
2. In life, it may be important to start out well, but it's even more important to finish well. Understanding the pitfalls in your life will help you to finish well. The Bible gives us several examples of how people started out well, but some finished badly while some were able to keep their walk with God until the end. In the book of Judges, we see how the entire tribe of Dan fell into the trap of discontent, an attitude that eventually led to them being written off the 12 tribes of Israel. Read Judges 18:1-31. God gave each of the 12 tribes a piece of land wherein they each were responsible to drive out the remaining people in that land. The tribe of Dan was a group of people who descended from the fifth son of Jacob (Israel). They were given some of the best land in Canaan, but how did the people feel about the inheritance given to them by God? Why (v. 1)? What did they decide to do instead? Discuss why Christians, despite being given God's bountiful, rich blessings, still feel discontented with what they have?
3. The Danites could have obeyed God—conquered and developed the land of their inheritance. However, their discontent led to their fall. Our passage shows four steps towards how discontent leads God's people to fall:
 - a. Discontent clouds your judgment (v. 2-6). The Danites looked for another land because they were discontented with what God had already given them. Did they do the right thing? Who were Micah and the Levite priest (Judges 17)? Were they from God? How did discontent cloud the minds of the five Danite spies? Discuss how discontentment clouds people's minds, in the process manipulating the will of God to make it conform to what they want. Did you ever want something so badly that you did whatever you could to get it at all cost? Was it worth it? Share and discuss with the group.
 - b. Discontent leads to disobedience (v. 7-10). Describe the land that the five spies found in the city of Laish. Because they liked and coveted the land, what conclusion did they come up with in verse 10? Why was their assumption wrong? How did their discontent lead them to disobedience? Give examples on how Christians disobey rules, moral

values, or even legal matters because of wanting something that they cannot have. Why is it wrong?

- c. Discontent leads you to make your own rules (v. 11-18). How did the rest of the Danites respond to the report of the five spies about the city of Laish? Instead of destroying the false god in Micah's house, what did the 600 Danite men do to it? Share how you feel about how far the Danites have fallen. How did the progression of their discontentment with the land that God had given them lead them to also be discontented with their faith in the One True God? How does being discontented lead Christians to make their own rules instead of being faithful to God and His commands? Share examples of the "rules" that Christians make to manipulate the Bible to their likings, instead of them adjusting to what the Bible actually says.
- d. Discontent leads to apostasy (*def. turning away from God*; v.19-31). What did these Danites tell the Levite priest of Micah to do that led them really far away from God and to their eventual destruction? What did they do when Micah tried to stop them (v. 22-27)? What did they set up as they settled in the former city of Laish, now the city of Dan? What is the question that Satan often asks you so that you would lose contentment in your life, whether it is in your work, studies, relationships, or walk with God? Discuss what you should do so that you will not fall into this trap.

Walk

"So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh." (v. 31)

This verse tells you that people who once walked with God could be led far away from Him because of discontent. The Danites were not satisfied with what God gave them and tried to take something that God did not give them. As a result, they lost everything. Examine your heart if the discontentment you have in your life is clouding your judgment, causing you to disobey, to make your own rules instead of following what God says, and leading you to turn away from God. What should you do about it? How can you develop an attitude of contentment so that you will not go down in the pitfall of discontent?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, forgive me for the discontentment I allowed to grow in my heart. Many times I'm so focused on the things You don't give me that I don't see the richness and abundance of what You do give me. I don't want to be led away from You because of my own selfishness and greed. Today I repeat the words of David in Psalm 139:23-24,

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.*

I pray that You would cleanse me from this sin, and enable me to see Your ways through the lenses of contentment and gratefulness. In Jesus name. Amen.