

Sermon Title: **“WHY, OH LORD?”**

Judges 21:1-7

- ALL of this heartbreak could have been entirely avoided:
  - Had sin been taken seriously in the first place
  - & when sin occurred (sin is a part of this life) that it was Confessed, Repented of, & Properly Dealt with before God
- Before the battle against Benjamin began the other 11 Tribes had sworn an oath (they made a pact, they committed to a promise)
  - When the battle was over, NONE of the 11 Tribes were going to allow their daughters to marry a Benjaminite
- As the dust settles from the war against their own brother, the 11 Tribes come to Bethel (where the tabernacle, ark, & high priest were located)
- Israel just experienced a victory on the battlefield. That was normally a time of GREAT celebration (but there was NO ONE rejoicing)
- Israel had so much to mourn:
  - Over 40,000 lost lives from the 11 Tribes
  - Over 25,100 lost lives from the Tribe of Benjamin
  - & now the realization of the rippling effects that sin had caused
- With heavy-hearts these 11 Tribes (weeping bitterly over the whole situation) ask God, WHY?
  - Unless God intervened it would NOT be long before the 600 men (the ONLY remaining Benjaminites) would die off
- After a night filled with lamenting & mourning, Israel arises the next day & they build an altar
  - On the surface that sounds like a great idea, however, with the tabernacle already at this location, it WASN'T!
  - The 11 Tribes offer burnt offerings & peace offerings to God
  - BOTH offerings (done God's way) were GREAT!
- Benjamin's choice to support & condone sin was part of the reason, but it was also Israel's reaction to that sin that caused the predicament they're currently facing
  - The oath which Israel made actually had a curse attached to it
- With ONLY 600 men remaining from the entire Tribe of Benjamin (& NO women left), extinction seemed cemented