

Judges 8:29-9:21

8:31 – concubine	(n.)	a woman who lives with a man of higher status and has sexual relations with him but is not married to him
8:33 – prostituted	(v.)	literally, had sex with someone in return for payment. Prostitution is used as a metaphor for how God’s people turned away from him to worship false gods.
8:33 – Baals	(p.n.)	male false gods in Canaan
8:35 – loyalty	(n.)	the quality of staying firm in your support for someone
9:1 – clan	(n.)	a group of families that are related to each other
9:2 – citizens	(n.)	people who belong to a country
9:3 – ‘your flesh and blood’		your own family
9:3 – inclined	(adj.)	having the tendency to do something
9:4 – temple	(n.)	a building used for worship of a god
9:4 – scoundrels	(n.)	people who behave very badly towards others, especially by deceiving them
9:5 – murdered	(v.)	killed deliberately and illegally
9:6 – pillar	(n.)	a tall solid structure that is usually used to support part of a building
9:10 – fig	(n.)	a fruit



9:11 – ‘hold sway’		rule over
9:12 – vine	(n.)	a plant that grows up over things – e.g. grape vine



9:14 – thornbush	(n.)	a plant whose branches have lots of sharp points
9:15 – ‘take refuge in’		rest in; be safe in
9:16 – honourably	(adv.)	in a way that deserves to be admired and respected
9:16 – ‘in good faith’		in a way that you believe is right and honest
9:18 – revolted	(v.)	acted in a violent way to overthrow the ruler
9:20 – consume	(v.)	destroy
9:21 – fled	(v.)	ran away from danger

Judges 8:29-9:21 (New International Reader's Version)

²⁹ Jerub-Baal, the son of Joash, went back home to live. Jerub-Baal was another name for Gideon. ³⁰ He had 70 sons of his own. That's because he had many wives. ³¹ And he had a concubine who lived in Shechem. She also had a son by him. Gideon named that son Abimelek. ³² Gideon, the son of Joash, died when he was very old. He was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah. Ophrah was in the territory that belonged to the family line of Abiezer.

³³ As soon as Gideon had died, the Israelites began serving and worshiping gods that were named Baal. Israel wasn't faithful to the LORD. They worshiped Baal-Berith as their god. ³⁴ They forgot what the LORD their God had done for them. He had saved them from the power of their enemies all around them. ³⁵ Jerub-Baal had done many good things for the Israelites. But they weren't faithful to his family. Jerub-Baal was another name for Gideon.

9 Abimelek was the son of Jerub-Baal. He went to his mother's brothers in Shechem. He spoke to them and to all the members of his mother's family group. He said, ² "Speak to all the citizens of Shechem. Tell them, 'You can have all 70 of Jerub-Baal's sons rule over you. Or you can have just one man rule over you. Which would you rather have?' Remember, I'm your own flesh and blood."

³ The brothers told all of that to the citizens of Shechem. Then the people decided to follow Abimelek. They said, "He's related to us." ⁴ They gave him 28 ounces of silver. They had taken it from the temple of the god named Baal-Berith. Abimelek used it to hire some men. They were wild and weren't good for anything. They became his followers. ⁵ Abimelek went to his father's home in Ophrah. There on a big rock he murdered his 70 brothers. All of them were the sons of Jerub-Baal. But Jotham escaped by hiding. He was Jerub-Baal's youngest son. ⁶ All the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo came together. They gathered at the stone pillar that was beside the large tree in Shechem. They wanted to crown Abimelek as their king.

⁷ Jotham was told about it. So he climbed up on top of Mount Gerizim. He shouted down to them, "Citizens of Shechem! Listen to me! Then God will listen to you. ⁸ One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to an olive tree, 'Be our king.'

⁹ "But the olive tree answered, 'Should I give up my olive oil? It's used to honor gods and people alike. Should I give that up just to rule over the trees?'

¹⁰ "Next, the trees said to a fig tree, 'Come and be our king.'

¹¹ "But the fig tree replied, 'Should I give up my fruit? It's so good and sweet. Should I give that up just to rule over the trees?'

¹² "Then the trees said to a vine, 'Come and be our king.'

¹³ "But the vine answered, 'Should I give up my wine? It cheers up gods and people alike. Should I give that up just to rule over the trees?'

¹⁴ "Finally, all the trees spoke to a bush that had thorns. They said, 'Come and be our king.'

¹⁵ "The bush asked the trees, 'Do you really want to anoint me as king over you? If you do, come and rest in my shade. But if you don't, I will destroy you! Fire will come out of me and burn up the cedar trees of Lebanon!'

¹⁶ "Did you act in an honest way when you made Abimelek your king? Did you really do the right thing? Have you been fair to Jerub-Baal and his family? Have you given him the honor he's worthy of? ¹⁷ Remember that my father fought for you. He put his life in danger for you. He saved you from the power of Midian. ¹⁸ But today you have turned against my father's family. You have murdered his 70 sons on a big rock. Abimelek is only the son of my father's female slave. But you have made him king over the citizens of Shechem. You have done that because he's related to you. ¹⁹ Have you citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo acted in an honest way toward Jerub-Baal? Have you done the right thing to his family today? If you have, may you be happy with Abimelek! And may he be happy with you! ²⁰ But if you haven't, let fire come out from Abimelek and burn you up! And let fire come out from you and burn Abimelek up!"

²¹ Then Jotham ran away. He escaped to a town named Beer. He lived there because he was afraid of his brother Abimelek.



Mark 10:35-37, 41-45

10:37 – glory	(noun)	greatness; magnificence; beauty
10:39 – baptism	(noun)	literally, the act of washing someone with water to symbolise that they are forgiven by God and are a part of his family. Jesus also referred to his own death on the cross as his ‘baptism’.
10:42 – Gentiles	(proper noun)	people who are not Jews, who in this time were the people of God.
10:44 – slave	(noun)	someone who is owned by someone else and must do whatever their owner wants them to do
10:45 – ransom	(noun)	a sum of money that is paid to buy back someone who is in trouble

Mark 10:35-37, 41-45 (New International Reader’s Version)

³⁵ James and John came to Jesus. They were the sons of Zebedee. “Teacher,” they said, “we would like to ask you for a favor.”

³⁶ “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

³⁷ They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right hand in your glorious kingdom. Let the other one sit at your left hand.”

...

⁴¹ The other ten disciples heard about it. They became angry at James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together. He said, “You know about those who are rulers of the Gentiles. They hold power over their people. Their high officials order them around. ⁴³ Don’t be like that. Instead, anyone who wants to be important among you must be your servant. ⁴⁴ And anyone who wants to be first must be the slave of everyone. ⁴⁵ Even the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free.”