

## Beware of Counterfeiting

Judges 17,18

**Introduction** – we may not be aware of counterfeiting spiritual things. This lesson calls us to watch out for this in our lives.

### The I\_\_\_\_\_ of God (17:1-4)

#### A. Micah's remorse

1. He stole from his m\_\_\_\_\_ 1100 silver pieces (= \$2.2 million)
2. He was afraid of his mother's curse and c\_\_\_\_\_ to his mother what he did and she p\_\_\_\_\_ him for his action.

#### B. Micah's reaction

1. Micah's mother dedicates all the silver to the Lord for her son to make a g\_\_\_\_\_ image (a shaped image of a god) and a m\_\_\_\_\_ image (metal shaped by heat). This image was an image of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Micah accepts his mother's gift and puts the image in his h\_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. God's instruction in Ex 20:4

1. Forbids making an image of any likeness in h\_\_\_\_\_ (since God resides there, an image of Him is forbidden)
2. The reason for this commandment – to correct the p\_\_\_\_\_ thinking that worshipping an image was to worship what it represented.
  - a. An image is m\_\_\_\_\_-made
  - b. God m\_\_\_\_\_ man
  - c. To worship an image of God that man made is not worshipping the One that made man.

#### D. Application

1. Many cultures have image worship and we ought not to expect them to give up their images when we have our own.
2. The c\_\_\_\_\_ - do not use it to enhance your worship
3. Images of Jesus
  - a. While it is true that Jesus is the image of the i\_\_\_\_\_ God (Col 1:15; Heb 1:3) and God in the f\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 1:14), we have no idea of what He looks like.
  - b. All statues, paintings, drawings are not to be used as our c\_\_\_\_\_ to God.
4. Jesus Himself is the only connection we have to the Father (Jn 14:6) and since we who believe in Jesus are joined with His Spirit (1 Cor 6:17) we can go to Him MEANINGFULLY anyw\_\_\_\_\_ and at anyt\_\_\_\_\_.

## The S\_\_\_\_\_ of God (17:5-13)

- A. Micah set up his own t\_\_\_\_\_ system with a little shrine (KJV – house of gods) in his house (v. 5)
1. The Hebrew is beth Elohim which is used in 18:31 and is translated there as house of G\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Beth means house (e.g. Bethlehem – house of b\_\_\_\_\_)
  3. Elohim is the usual word for God even though it is the same word for gods. The Complete Jewish Bible translates 17:5 as a house of God).
- B. Micah set up his own p\_\_\_\_\_ system
1. At first appointed his own s\_\_\_\_\_ to be his personal priest. But priests could only be from the tribe of L\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. When a Levitical priest came by his house, Micah h\_\_\_\_\_ him to be his personal priest saying, *Now I know the Lord will prosper me.*
- C. The system of God in the O.T.
1. Involved a t\_\_\_\_\_ system (Ex 25-31), a s\_\_\_\_\_ system (Lev 1-5), and a p\_\_\_\_\_ system (Lev 6-8).
  2. God assigned different groups to pack and unpack the moveable temple (Num 3,4)
    - a. Once Joshua brought the people into the promised land the moveable temple was put in S\_\_\_\_\_ (Josh 18:1) where it remained throughout the period of the judges.
    - b. Shiloh is the c\_\_\_\_\_ of Ephraim, which was not so far from where Micah lived. But instead of traveling to THE house of God, he made up his own little house of God, counterfeiting the system of God.
- D. Application
1. The system of God in the O.T. was established as a means of t\_\_\_\_\_ people about Christ (Gal 3:24)
    - a. Jesus is the one-time s\_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 10:12)
    - b. Jesus is our personal p\_\_\_\_\_ (I Tim 2:5)
    - c. We as a body of believers are God's t\_\_\_\_\_ among which He dwells (1 Cor 3:16)
  2. Many over\_\_\_\_\_ the personal relationship to Jesus at the expense of the community relationship we are to have with Him.
    - a. Heb 10:24-25 commands us to gather together r\_\_\_\_\_ to encourage one another to love and good works.
      - 1) Many discouraged believers have made their own little church at home – that's counterfeiting (you cannot do corporate worship alone, nor use your spiritual gift alone)

- 2) God's plan has been and always will be to build His c\_\_\_\_\_ and use local congregations to spread the gospel to the world.
- b. Jn 13:35 states that all will know that we are Christ's disciples if we have l\_\_\_\_\_ for one another (that cannot be evident without being together on a regular basis).

**The P\_\_\_\_\_ of God (18:1-31)**

- A. 600 men from the tribe of D\_\_\_\_\_ seek to occupy Laish as part of their rightful territory (see Josh 19:40-48; Jdg 1:34)
  1. They discover Micah's temple system and s\_\_\_\_\_ it.
  2. Micah's priest objects but is offered the position of priest over the t\_\_\_\_\_ of Dan. He takes the offer (it is better to be priest over a tribe rather than one household)
  3. They threaten to k\_\_\_\_\_ Micah and his household if he does not let them keep everything. Micah lets them go.
- B. The people of Laish are all killed and they occupy the land - no doubt the Danites attributed their success to Micah's worship system since they set it up in Laish. They counterfeited the power of God.
- C. Application
  1. Many Catholics believe that statues of s\_\_\_\_\_ bring blessings.
  2. Many Protestants may call the Catholic practice ridiculous but practice similar things.
    - a. Wearing a c\_\_\_\_\_ as a means of securing God's blessings.
    - b. Using the b\_\_\_\_\_ as an object of power.
    - c. Depending upon good luck c\_\_\_\_\_.
    - d. Dream c\_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Power or protection is not provided by such objects. If you want God's power, God's blessings, or God's protection a\_\_\_\_\_ for it (Jms 4:2).

*This week, be aware of rightly relating to God and one another*