

Transforming Daily
“ . . . evil in the sight of the Lord . . . ”
Judges 2:11

“Evil” is a word not very often heard from the pulpits of America these days. Most messages are talks on how materially blessed one is or how one can be rich and successful by following 3 steps, or five laws, or 12 precepts. If not riches and success the sermon topic is about health and wealth or a list of ways to personally obtain whatever it is one desire’s most in their heart. Few messages are about sin, wickedness, hell, condemnation, judgment, destruction, disobedience (unless it’s someone else’s) or evil. For the 21st century believer, these biblical topics, and others like them, are too negative, too critical, and just downright archaic for contemporary minds and lives.

However, God doesn’t see it that way. You say, “How do you know how God sees it?” Read the Bible. His Word will not pass away. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. If the subject matter was important enough back then to be recorded in Scripture, then the subject matter is important enough to be read from Scripture today. Furthermore, evil is what took Jesus, God’s only begotten Son, to the cross of Calvary. I think that makes evil a pretty important topic to God.

Oversimplified, and not original with me, is the outline of the book of Judges. The outline is a roadmap of disobedience and defiance by Israel toward God. Judges records the spiritual rollercoaster ride of sin, suffering, supplication and salvation. Israel would sin against God, suffer God’s discipline, cry out to God with prayers of supplication, and be saved from their peril by God through one of the judges. Over and over this occurs in the life of Israel. To the point that the reader says, “Won’t Israel ever learn!”

Just about that time, the Holy Spirit speaks to my heart (He doesn’t speak to me audibly, I’m a Baptist, He knows I couldn’t handle it), and reminds me with God’s Word, that I too possess a ticket for that spiritual roller coaster ride of sin. From time to time, though not without remorse, I find myself in the front seat of one of those coaster carts “clicketing, clacketing” up that long rail to the 10th story peak of the track that turns into a steep, hard, left turn, drop-off plummeting down, what seems like out of control, into an endless abyss of misery (overstated? I think not).

Adrian Rogers used to say, “Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you wanted to stay, and cost you far more than you ever intended to pay.” What relief and rejoicing that attends my soul to be in right fellowship with God again! But then, once more, I find myself on the spiritual roller coaster ride of sin, in the front seat, “clicketing, clacketing” Sound familiar? It should.

We are all sinners, and we fall short of the glory of God. Even as believers, born again, new creatures, we have a propensity toward sin. Why? There’s evil in the world and sometimes we choose to do evil in the sight of the Lord.