CHAPTER 8
A Few Good Men… and Women
JUDGES 2-4, 6-8, 13-16

THE STORY

God raised up judges to lead them. They were military, political and spiritual leaders.

THE STORY

I. There were two mistakes Israel made after conquering the land.

THE STORY

They did not drive out the Canaanites. Judges 1:28
They did not teach their children about God and his great acts of deliverance. Judges 2:10-12

The Three Chairs
• 1st Chair – Committed
• 2nd Chair – Compromised
• 3rd Chair – Complacent

THE STORY

There are two profound lessons we can learn from Judges.
• Our culture can influence us toward evil.
• “Bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33
• Christianity is only one generation away from extinction. Every generation needs to have a personal encounter with the living God.

THE STORY
II. Israel will fall into a repeated cycle of sin, oppression, repentance and deliverance.

Judges 2:13-19

THE STORY

Sin – The people sinned against God and worshipped pagan gods.

Oppression – God removed his hand of protection and allowed the surrounding nations to oppress them. He lets us feel the consequences of our sin.

Repentance – The people cry out to God for help. They “turn” to him in repentance.

Deliverance – God raised up a judge to deliver them.

THE STORY

God allowed the nations that remained to test them.

Judges 2:22

THE STORY

III. God raised up judges to deliver his people.

THE STORY

They were unlikely heroes with flawed characters.

Deborah – Judges 4-5

• She is a prophet and a judge.
• She directed Barak to lead an army against Sisera.
• The land had peace for 40 years.

Gideon – Judges 6-8

• Gideon was a farmer and a reluctant leader who moved from fear to faith.
• God called Gideon to deliver his people.
• Gideon must first tear down his father’s altar to Baal.
• The land enjoyed peace for 40 years.
Samson – Judges 13:16
- He was a man of great strength, but his weakness was his attraction to pagan women.
- He led Israel to victory over the Philistines, but dishonored God by breaking his Nazirite vow.

Conclusion
What do we learn from this chapter of the story?
- We can fall into the same cycle of sin. We need to turn to Jesus in repentance and ask him to deliver us and set us free.
- We need to teach our children the Scriptures, live passionately for Christ and pray that they would have a first chair experience in their own life.