

Discussion Questions

The Domino Effect
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Judges 17:1-6; Judges 17:7-8; Judges 17:12-13; Judges 18:30-31

Question: What do we mean by the “Domino Effect”?

This morning’s lesson is all about the DOMINO EFFECT of SIN in the life of Israel in the time of the judges.

Question: What usually happens after someone utters the words: “How hard can it be?”

Judges 17:1-6

17 Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim 2 said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse—I have that silver with me; I took it.”

Then his mother said, “The Lord bless you, my son!”

3 When he returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, she said, “I solemnly consecrate my silver to the Lord for my son to make a carved image and a cast idol. I will give it back to you.”

4 So he returned the silver to his mother, and she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to a silversmith, who made them into the image and the idol. And they were put in Micah’s house.

5 Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some idols and installed one of his sons as his priest. 6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

Bonus Question for Bible Scholars: Was this the same Micah as the Israelite prophet of the book of Micah?

Look at verses 1 and 2 of Judges 17. What is the first thing we learn about Micah?

Verse 2: Why did Micah confess to taking his mother’s silver?

End of verse 2: What did Micah’s mother say when he gave back the silver?

Maybe she was proud of her boy’s honesty...but, what was the likely thing she was really trying to do by saying that?

What’s the first problem with Micah’s mother in verse 3?

Micah’s mother said she DEDICATE WHOLLY the 1,100 shekels of silver.

Verse 4: How many shekels did she give to be made into an idol? 200.

Verse 5: Idolatry wasn’t just “mama’s” problem was it? What does verse 5 tell us about Micah?

Micah didn’t just have a private “shrine” of false gods (little “g”) in his house...he went further in the disobedience of his “home grown”, “do it yourself” religion.

What else did he do according to verse 5? But, still he went further. Look at verse 7.

Judges 17:7-8

7 A young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, who had been living within the clan of Judah, 8 left that town in search of some other place to stay. On his way he came to Micah's house in the hill country of Ephraim.

Judges 17:12-13

12 Then Micah installed the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in his house. 13 And Micah said, "Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest."

Question: Why do you think Micah wanted a shrine in his house?

So, HOW does the "domino effect" of SIN get started?

Let's circle back to Micah, his "mama," and their idols.

Go left in your Bible and turn to Exodus Chapter 20. Beginning in verse 3. What were the first TWO of the TEN COMMANDMENTS God gave Moses?

Exodus 20

3 "You shall have no other gods before[a] me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

While we're here...what are the NEXT TWO Commandments in verses 7-10?

7 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

Question: Why do you think God made those the FIRST FOUR COMMANDMENTS?

Discussion Question: Thinking about our society today, how are we seeing the DOMINO EFFECT of getting away from God's standards?