

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Judges 1:1–2:5

In Those Days: Half-Hearted Discipleship

GOING DEEPER

Read Joshua 24:14–18 and Judges 21:25

I watched the biography on Whitney Houston recently. I was amazed at her talent and rise to fame, even hints of her faith and the faith of her mother. At the end, however, the story is so sad for what could have been and the addictions that wrecked a beautiful life.

- Can you think of a personal story of someone you knew in your life that started out so positively and has been wrecked with struggles? Share the stories with the group.

Parallel the passages read above with the arc that we just described, starting with so much promise and ending in defeat.

- What do you see, and what can we learn from the space between Joshua 24 and Judges 21?

Now read Judges 1:1–2:5 and this quote from C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*:

“All that we call human history – money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery – is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

- Israel struggled with half-hearted discipleship. What are some of the examples in the passage you just read, where is that evident?
- Do you think we try to claim belief in Christ, but also try to live the way we want to with our own rules? Explain.

APPLICATION

- Where are you struggling with compromise?



- Where do you think you need to trust in God's promises more? To see his faithfulness?