THE RISE OF THE ANTI-JUDGE

Judges 8:29-9:21 // November 15, 2026 PM

The greatest danger is not tyranny from without, but tyranny from within.

I. Corrupt people selfishly choose leaders like them (8:29-9:6)

II. Corrupt leaders selfishly consume people under them (9:7-21).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What did Abraham Lincoln mean by "the enemy within"? When it comes to the church, why is the greatest enemy always from within?
2. Though God had given Israel rest from outside enemies, what were some signs that Israel was in danger while Gideon was still alive?
3. What happened in Israel after Gideon died? Can you explain how Israel went from breaking the second commandment to breaking the first?
4. Who was Abimelech, and what did he do to become king? What lessons can we learn from this today?
5. What is a fable? What was the message and moral of Jotham's fable after Abimelech was made king?
6. How is Abimelech the anti-judge, and how is Jesus the anti-Abimelech?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Why are times of peace and prosperity so spiritually dangerous?
2. Do I agree that in the church, the greatest enemy is always within? How have I seen this play itself out in the past? How might I combat it today?
3. How do I see my own heart in the Shechemites and in Abimelech, and how can Jesus alone deliver me from it?