



# When God Goes;

# Anything Goes!

Micah is an example of living without rules.  
Study Judges 17 and 18.



## Judges 17:6

- In those days *there* was no king in Israel; everyone did *what* was right in his own eyes.
- Theme of this time
- No king – No one tells me what to do
- Right = what I think or want to do

# Judges 17

➤ Stole from his mother

➤ And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred *shekels* of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears-- here *is* the silver with me; I took it." And his mother said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!" (2)

# Judges 17

- Stole from his mother
- Made Images

➤ So when he had returned the eleven hundred *shekels* of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you." (3)



# Judges 17

- Stole from his mother
- Made Images
- Made an ephod, appointed son to be priest

➤ The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest. (5)

# Judges 17

- Stole from his mother
- Made Images
- Made an ephod, appointed son to be priest
- Levite hired for priest

➤ 9 And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" So he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay." 10 Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in. (9-10)

# Judges 17

- Stole from his mother
- Made Images
- Made an ephod, appointed son to be priest
- Levite hired for priest
- Everybody is happy
- **3 R's – Riches, Religion, Respectable**

- <sup>11</sup> Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him. <sup>12</sup> So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah. <sup>13</sup> Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!" (11-13)



## Judges 18

- Dan wants to expand

- In those days *there was* no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day *their* inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them. (1)



# Judges 18

- ▶ Dan wants to expand
- ▶ Priest approves

▶ <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, "Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous." <sup>6</sup> And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. The presence of the LORD *be* with you on your way." (5-6)



## Judges 18

- Dan wants to expand
- Priest approves
- Priest is hired away from Micah

➤ And they said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. *Is it* better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?" (19)

# Judges 18

- Dan wants to expand
  - Priest approves
  - Priest is hired away from Micah
  - Takes image and garments
  - **Lost 3 R's – Riches, Religion, Respectable**
- So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people. (20)

## Judges 18

- ▶ Here is the surprise ending
- ▶ **The tabernacle is just over the hill at Shiloh**
- ▶ **Micah was not too far from the tabernacle; He was too far from God.**

▶ So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.  
(31)



# Lessons to Learn

- If you can do what is right in your eyes, so can others.



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- If you can do what is right in your eyes, so can others.
- Many go far away from God –  
When God is still close – waiting



# Lessons to Learn

- If you can do what is right in your eyes, so can others.
- Many go far away from God –  
When God is still close – waiting
- **WHEN GOD GOES – ANYTHING GOES!**