

Prove Yourself
Judges 2:20-22
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of proving our faithfulness & loyalty to God.

- Intro:
1. How does man prove himself?
 2. The people were not loyal to God (**Judges 2:11-19**)
 - a. They would now have to prove themselves (**2:20-22**)

I. God's Wrath & His Plan (Judges 2:20-3:6)

A. The Reason for His Anger (Judges 2:20)

1. Transgressed His Covenants, broken God's law, disobedience (**v.20a**)
2. "and has not heeded My voice" (**v.20b**), they did not listen to God.
 - a. Ignoring God's voice has a price.

B. God's Plan (Judges 2:21-3:5)

1. God would no longer drive out the nations from before them. (**2:21**)
 - a. He no longer fought for them.
2. Instead, using those nations He would test them (**2:22-23**)
3. God leaves these nations to test Israel, they would have to prove themselves to want to follow God completely. (**3:1-4**)
4. The people embraced their enemies and intermarried with them (**3:5-6**)

II. The testing

A. Crime & Punishment (3:7-8)

1. They continued to disobey (**v.7**)
2. They had to serve their enemies (**v.8**)

B. Their Judge & Their Relief (v.9-11)

1. Their Judge and deliverer (**v.9-10**)
2. They had rest for a time (**v.11**)

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. God hears the cries of man and pities him (**2:9a**)

1. The Lord hears the cries of man.
2. Man should respond in repentance & obedience.

B. God is not fooled

1. Wickedness does not go unpunished (**2:18-19**)
2. Our faithfulness cannot be short-term, it must be long-term.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Let us do our best to make it unmistakably clear that we serve God.
2. We should give no reason for God's anger to be aroused against us (**3:8a**).
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9