



### The Course to Consequences

The Israelites were rebuked by God in Judges 2:1-3. They did not completely obey Him. The theme of the entire book is that, "When you fail, God is faithful to restore you." It is often the times when everything in our lives seems to be going well that we fail, doesn't it? When hard things are brought into our lives that is when we are driven back to God.

1 Cor. 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

We are supposed to look at the Israelites in order to learn from their example. An entire generation disobeyed the Lord. How can you and your generation avoid spiritual disobedience? How can we avoid drifting in our relationship with God. This morning I want us to consider the steps that the Israelites took that led them to a place of consequence. It will be pretty simple for us to recognize these tendencies in our own hearts.

Theme: Because God is completely faithful to His Promises, we must completely obey His commands.

How did the Israelites drift so far from the Lord?

### I. Neglecting the Word of God. (Chapter 1)

A. When the Word of God is neglected, there is Incomplete obedience.

- God had told the Israelites to completely Conquer Canaan.

Side Note: People will often say that the God of the OT was violent and cruel. God commanded that the Israelites completely wipe out all the nations in Canaan. Wasn't it cruel? God had been patient with the Canaanites for centuries and withheld his judgment. Gen. 15:16 "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." They continued to shake their fists in God's face. Also, these nations had been warned. They had watched the God of the Israelites defeat Egypt and other nations. Rahab (a Canaanite) and her family had enough information to cause them to repent and turn to God. That would lead us to believe that God would have saved anyone who turned to him in repentance and faith. "He is not willing that any should perish." (2 Peter 3:9)

B. When the Word of God is neglected, we are open to sinful Influences.

### II. Imitating the ways of the world. (2:1-13)

The Jews became so accustomed to the sinful ways of their neighbors that they didn't seem so sinful anymore. They become interested and curious about how their neighbors worshipped. Then they started to live like them.

For believers today, the steps away from the Lord are...

1. Friendship with the world (James 4:4)
2. being "Spotted" by the world (James 1:27).
3. Loving the world (1 John 2:15)
4. "being Conformed to the world. (Rom. 12:2)

### III. Forsaking the ways of God. (2:6-23)

"The sin in our lives that we fail to conquer will eventually conquer us." - Warren Wiersbe

A. They Forgot what the Lord had done. (6-10)

B. They Forsook what the Lord had said. (11-13)

C. They Forfeited what the Lord had promised (14-15)

D. They failed to Learn from what the Lord did (16-23)