

God's Grace In Times of Sin

Judges 2:14-3:11

I. God's grace when discipline was required: The cycle of sin, discipline and God's grace (Judges 2:14-23)

A. God grace in spite of sin: God punished Israel by allowing nearby nations to defeat them, but in His grace God raised up judges to deliver Israel (2:14-19).

- The cycle of the judges – Sin, Slavery, Cry out to God, God raises up a judge to deliver Israel
 - A. Sin always has consequences.
- God delivered Israel when they were in distress.
 - A. God cares about our misery even when we deserve it.
- God's deliverance never had a lasting internal effect.
 - A. The intent of God's grace is to be glorified for His grace.

B. God's gracious purposes even in discipline: God no longer allowed Israel to totally defeat their enemies, but God used their enemies for His purposes (2:20-3:6).

- God used the Canaanites to test Israel (2:22; 3:4).
 - A. The presence of temptation is not an excuse, but a test.
- God used the Canaanites give Israel warfare experience (3:2).
 - A. God can use our parent's failures positively in us.
- Israel failed the test and intermarried with the Canaanites and served their gods (3:6).
 - A. Those who surround us, influence us.

II. God's grace expressed through Othniel – Israel's first judge (Judges 3:7-11)

A. God disciplined Israel through Cushan-Rishathaim (3:7-8).

B. God delivered Israel through Othniel (3:9-11).

Othniel

- He didn't hesitate because of his age – at least 75 when he won this battle (Joshua 17:7, 10, 29, 30)!
- He was godly – indwelt by the Holy Spirit (3:9,10).
- He was a proven, courageous leader (Judges 1:11-13).