

## Abimelech: The Consequences of Control

### Judges 9

#### I. The Lust for Power (Judges 9:1-21)

##### A. Controllers attack rivals to consolidate power (9:1-6).

- God did not want Israel to have a king, but Abimelech killed Gideon's other sons to become king.

##### B. Controllers ignore warnings (9:7-21).

- Jotham, the surviving son of Gideon, escaped and warned Abimelech that he would come to ruin.

#### *Thinking it Through*

1. Are there areas of resentment festering in me? Is forgiveness a way of life for me?
2. What do my desires for control reveal about my pride and fears?
3. Have I been warned about my efforts to be in control?

#### II. The Price of Power (Judges 9:22-57)

##### A. More control creates more conflict (9:22-38).

- Abimelech soon developed Gaal as an enemy.

##### B. Keeping control leads to eventual disaster for everyone (9:39-55).

- Abimelech destroyed those who threatened his power (39-41).
- Abimelech destroyed those who gave him his power originally (42-45).
- Abimelech was killed by a woman at Thebez (46-55).

##### C. Conclusion: God ultimately will execute justice against evil (9:56-57).