**Hope for Failures**

*Judges 1-2:5*

““Getting a grip on the staggering limitlessness of Christ’s love for us is not something the believer does in blissful isolation. It can only be done/attempted ‘together with all the saints’! The unity and fellowship of God’s people is not a wimpy idea weaker Christians dote on. It is an essential condition for experiencing the strength of God.” ~Dale Ralph Davis

1. Do you have any questions or comments about the sermon or the passage? What is Jesus teaching you through this section of Judges?

2. What does your idea of a successful Christian life look like? How does the tribe of Judah enlisting the weak and the outsider in their walk by faith challenge your view?

3. Understanding our sin: The promising start of Judah is contrasted with the failure of the northern tribes. Promising success in the south deteriorates into tragic failure in the north. This is the trajectory of the book. God’s accusation of the people in **2:2**: “You don’t want to obey. You refuse to listen to my voice.” So we have to go to war against our ‘wont’s’ in relationship to Jesus.[[1]](#footnote-1)

-What kinds of things does God command that you say, “I can’t” in order to hide a refusal to obey? (E.g. Forgiveness, restraining your tongue…)

-How does cowardice or pride lead us to say “I can’t” in our obedience?

 -How does temptation affect our obedience and desire to obey?

 -Read **2:1** – What is at the root of our lack of desire to enter the battle to obey our Savior?

4. Understanding God’s Character: What tension runs through the book of Judges? What is the grace and the judgment mentioned in **2:1-5**? What tension runs through your life of faith as you better get to know yourself and other Christians?

5. How does the gospel of Jesus resolve the tension? What hope is there for moral failures? What help is there for Christians to overcome our “I won’ts” of disobedience?

“We do not clean up our lives in order to become favored by God. It is just the opposite. Because God has favored us in Christ, we are empowered unto holy living as we worship the God of our salvation.” ~Miles Van Pelt

6.Take time to pray Psalm 119:5, 34 and Psalm 90:6 for one another. “*Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.* *Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love.* May grace make us obedient!

1. Questions here are following Tim Keller in *Judges For You*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)