

# The Redemption Stories of Judges

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*From Victor to Vanquished to Victor*

Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian." But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you.

introduction

# Avoiding Spiritual Drift

Judges  
8:22-35



**Spideysnowwhite gator Woman**

In our world today, it's so easy to start idolizing human leaders, whether they're in politics, business, or even the church.

*“So then, let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you... and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.” (1 Corinthians 3:21–23)*

the people's request / vv 22–23

Gideon started by refusing kingship (v. 23), but by collecting and displaying royal spoils, he drifted toward acting like a king.

1Tim 6:9-10

Gideon's Compromise / vv 24-27

Ephod: a physical idol or statue used for worship.

Judges 17:5, 18:14-20

Gideon's Compromise / vv 24-27

“...they played the harlot with it...”

Even small compromises in worship can lead to great stumbling. Good intentions don't sanctify disobedience. We need to be watchful that the “memorials” we build don't become idols that distract us from Christ.

Gideon's Compromise / vv 24-27

*Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father*

During Gideon's life, Israel enjoys peace. Outwardly, things look good — but inwardly, cracks are forming. The people's faith is tied to Gideon rather than God, and when he dies, their true loyalties are revealed.

The Illusion of Peace/ vv 29-32

*“they played the harlot...”*

Jas 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

When believers give their love and loyalty to idols of money, pleasure, or power, we are guilty of the same unfaithfulness Israel showed.

Israel's Forgetfulness / vv 33-34

## *Master Passion*

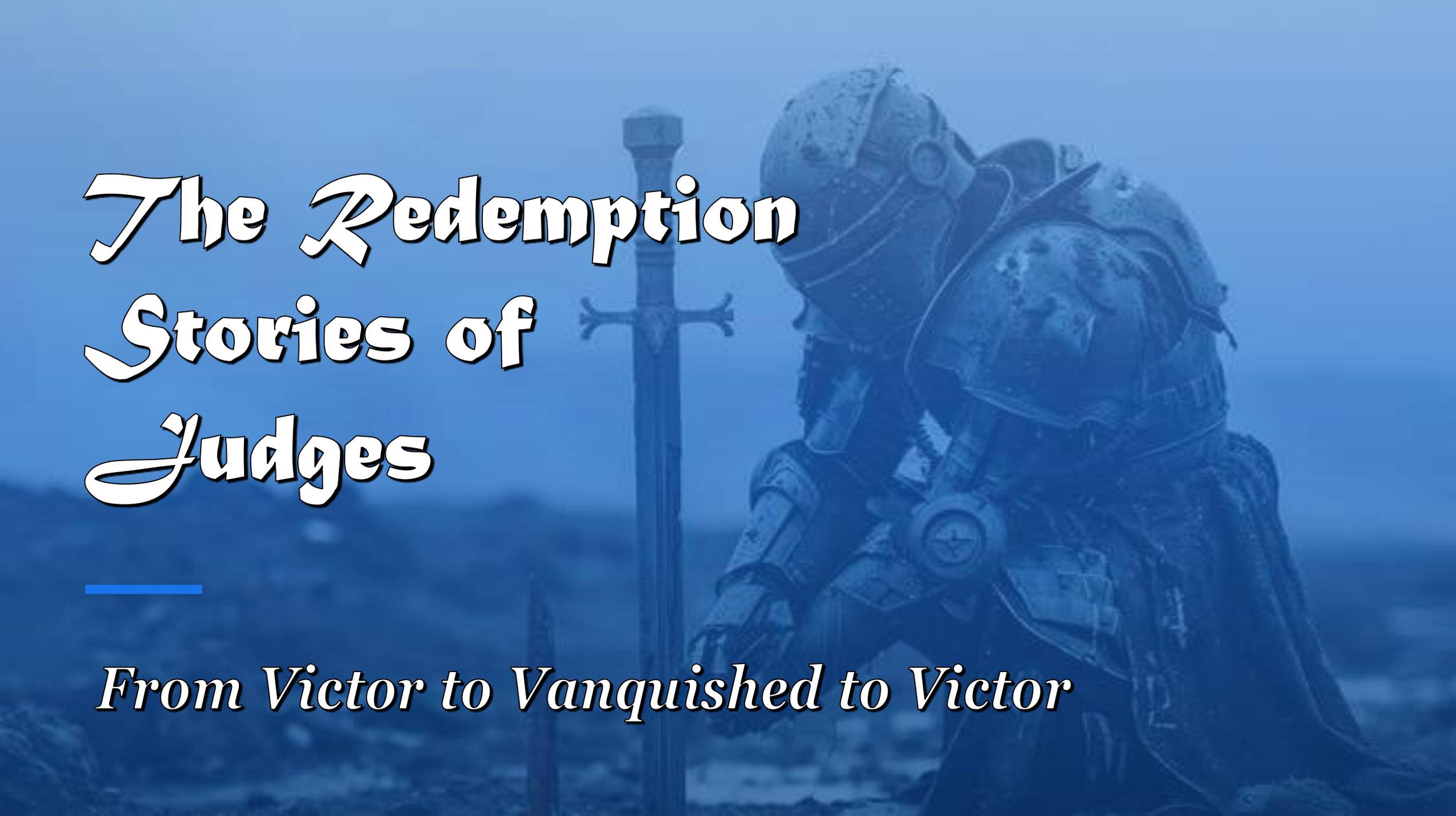
A master passion **is that** controlling desire, affection, or pursuit that dominates a person's life. It is **the thing that sits on the “throne of the heart”** and ultimately shapes choices, priorities, and values.

## *The Danger of Forgetfulness*

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.” (Revelation 2:5, NKJV)

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