

POST MODERN

# Parables

fatal flaws, ironic twists, & lesser known people



# Abimelech Gideon's Son Judges 9

Judges 8:22-23

Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian.”

Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you.”

## Judges 8:30-31

Now Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives.

And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech.

Abimelech =  
Son of the King

We need to recognize the  
reality of our tendency to  
drift from

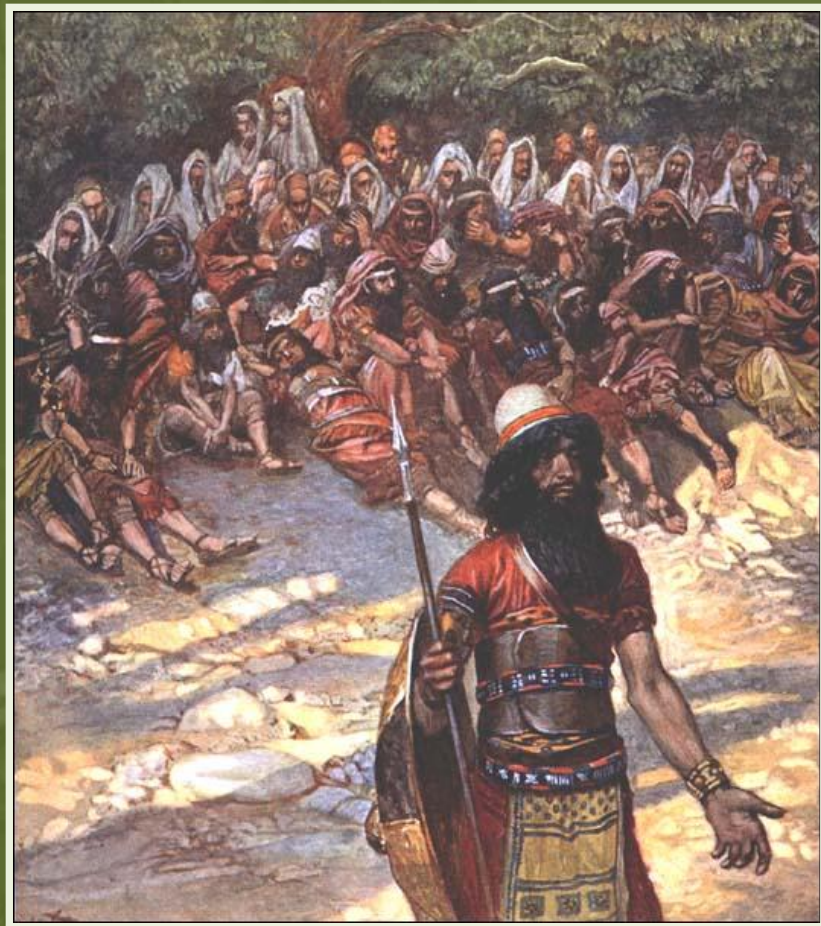
- the Lord will rule

- to I will rule

"It's not the big things ... that [your kids] most remember. It's the little things you do day in and day out, on a consistent basis, that molds a child." - Josh McDowell



# What happened to Gideon?





# Václav Havel on the temptations of political power



*President of the Czech Republic*

I go to a special doctor, I don't have to drive a car. I needn't cook or shop for myself, and I needn't even dial my own telephone. In other words, I find myself in the world of privileges, exceptions, perks, in the world of VIPs who gradually lose track of how much a streetcar ticket or butter costs, how to make a cup of coffee, how to drive a car and how to place a telephone call.



I myself wage a constant and rather unsuccessful struggle with the advantages I enjoy. You get used to things, and gradually, without being aware of it, you may lose your sense of judgment. Someone who forgets how to drive a car, do the shopping, make himself coffee and place a telephone call is not the same person who had known how to do those things all his life.



He becomes a captive of his position, his perks, his office. He is no longer in control of himself, because he is controlled by something else: by his position, its aspects and its privileges.



We need to recognize the reality that there is a tendency to drift from; the Lord will rule to I will rule

**In to this Abimelech is born.  
one of many sons of the  
king**

Judges 8:30-31

Now Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives.

And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech.

70 brothers - Sisters?  
a hunger for his  
fathers attention  
and affection

# What was it like to be Abimelech?

Mother a slave living in  
another town

Ridiculed

A man with glasses and a purple button-down shirt is standing on a train platform, gesturing with his hands as he speaks to a woman with short blonde hair wearing a bright green jacket. They are in a modern train car with dark wood paneling and a window in the background. The scene is lit with soft, indoor lighting.

**60**  
MINUTES



# Abimelech power grab

## Judges 9:1-5

Abimelech ... went to his mother's brothers in Shechem and said to them and to all his mother's clan, "Ask all the citizens of Shechem, 'Which is better for you: to have all seventy of *Gideon's* sons rule over you, or just one man?' Remember, I am your flesh and blood."

When the brothers repeated all this to the citizens of Shechem, they were inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother." They gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, and Abimelech used it to hire reckless adventurers, who became his followers. He went to his father's home in Ophrah and on one stone murdered his seventy brothers... But Jotham, the youngest son..escaped by hiding.

# The Alter of Ambition



## Judges 9:6-15

Then all the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo gathered beside the great tree at the pillar in Shechem to crown Abimelech king.

7 When Jotham was told about this, he climbed up on the top of Mount Gerizim and shouted to them, "Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you.



One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, 'Be our king.'

"But the olive tree answered, *'Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and men are honored, to hold sway over the trees?'*

"Next, the trees said to the fig tree, 'Come and be our king.'

"But the fig tree replied, *'Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?'*

"Then the trees said to the vine, 'Come and be our king.'

"But the vine answered, *'Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and men, to hold sway over the trees?'*

"Finally all the trees said to the thornbush, 'Come and be our king.'

"The thornbush said to the trees, 'If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!'



*“Should I give up”*

Bloom where you  
are planted

**Ambition vs Selfish Ambition**

# Ambition vs Selfish Ambition

## James 3:13-16

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Those who claim that politics is a dirty business are lying to us. Politics is work of a kind that requires especially pure people, because it is especially easy to become morally tainted. So easy, in fact, that a less vigilant spirit may not notice it happening at all.

Politics, therefore, ought to be carried on by people who are vigilant, sensitive to the ambiguous promise of existential self-affirmation that comes with it.

I have no idea whether I am such a person. I only know that I ought to be, because I have accepted this office.



# Judges 9:26-56

When we build our lives on anything other than Jesus Christ and we let it down or it lets us down despair sets in and crushes us.





When Jesus Christ is our  
life and we let him down  
he says I died for that.

Have you ever seen  
parents trying to get their  
children to do something  
and when they do it right  
the parents have delight  
on their face and they  
jump in to their parents  
arms







We were made to get that  
delight from God