

HER HANDS WERE UPON THE THRESHOLD JUDGES 19

Text:

Introduction:

The setting:

There was a Levite who took to himself a concubine. A concubine was kind of like a second class, or a substitute wife. His concubine left and the Bible says that she played the part of the harlot. Then she went back to her father's house. So four months later he went to get her, and began his journey back toward home.

They came to a city called Jebus, which would eventually become Jerusalem, but at the time was occupied by the ungodly. So instead of spending the night there they decided to go 4 miles further to a city called Gibeon, which was occupied by godly people, and there they could find lodging, there the people of God will take care of them, and refresh them and give them a place to stay, and then they would get up the next morning and continue their journey.

(Read Text)

I think that there are several lessons that can be learned from this story this evening, and I take as my title that little phrase, "Her hands were on the threshold."

1. THE CRUELTY OF SATAN

A. The Devil's Cruelty is a Constant Cruelty

B. The Devil's Cruelty is a Consuming Cruelty

(1 Pet 5:8 KJV) "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

Illustration: A roaring lion consumes their kill.

(Eph 4:27 KJV) "Neither give place to the devil."

2. THE CRY OF THE SINNER

This poor woman, the Bible says that these men consumed and abused her all night long. And when she was almost dead, and when she only had enough life to make it back to the house they finally let her go. And that is exactly what the devil wants to do with you and me and everybody else.

She makes her way back the house back to where her husband is. She doesn't say anything. She is too weak. Her strength is almost gone. Most of the life was gone out of her body.

She wants help, she want attention, and she reaches with her hand toward the threshold, but she can't reach up to the latch. She's unable to open the door, and doesn't have the energy to knock to wake someone up in the house. Her cry is a silent cry.

Illustration: Film of the Silent Cry

A. Silent Cry

Illustration:

Those that have tattoo's and dyed hair, and dress in black.

1. Most that are crying out don't know what they need, and all that they need is Jesus.

B. Seasonal Cry (There was a time that her life could have been spared between dawn and morning.)

(Judg 19:26 KJV) "Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light."

1. There is only a season for people to be saved.
2. There is only a season to reach our loved ones with the Gospel.

C. Sad Cry (How sad it is the cry of the sinner.)

Illustration: The kid's at Freddie's hospital room.

The problem is we are in the house asleep and not worried about their cry.

3. THE CARELESSNESS OF THE SAVED (VS. 18)

(Judg 19:18 KJV) "And he said unto him, We are passing from Bethlehemjudah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Bethlehemjudah, but I am now going to the house of the LORD; and there is no man that receiveth me to house."

A. Exposed this woman to danger.

1. What kind of a guy would let his wife be abused all night long.
2. Possibly you might be exposing your kids or family to dangers.
3. I know some preachers that expose their churches to dangers, in not preaching the truth.

Illustration:

Worthy causes with unworthy companions (Promise Keepers)

B. Didn't Exercise Diligence.

1. How could he sleep with such things going on.
2. Why didn't he try to get to her before he got up to leave.

(Judg 19:28 KJV) "And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place."

3. Why was he not praying for her.

4. How cold can one get in not trying to pick her up instead of telling her to get up.

Close:

I'm amazed at how many of us today are just like this man. I'm amazed that no one would give them lodging.

But the thing that amazes me is that we can sleep while people all around us are crying out and dying and going to Hell.

I wonder how many there are in this city or in this church whose hand is on the threshold?