

## ***How to Make Matters Worse*** **Judges 21**

### ***Dilemma: What do we do to repopulate Benjamin? 1-14***

- A pre-war oath (recall 11:30,31) complicates the reconstruction efforts, as the mournful victorious tribes try to repopulate Benjamin.
- Crying out to God with sacrifices is met w/silence (contra 20:26ff.), but another pre-war oath is used as an ugly way to “fix things.”
- Jabesh-gilead is targeted for not helping with the war effort, as in 8:4ff. Only unmarried young women are spared.

What other option could the 11 tribes have taken? See 5:15b-17,23.

What tragic irony is occurring here?

### ***Dilemma: What else can we do to repopulate Benjamin? 15-21***

- Rather than target the girls from Shiloh, what other option is there?
- The only other use of the verb “catch” in v. 21 is 2x in Ps. 10:9,10.
- Just how have these attempts to help right a wrong worked out, especially noting their intentions seem to be noble?
- Why did all these efforts have such catastrophic results, and do we such going on today?

