

## Doing what we think is right

Judges 17

### I. Conscience: Responding to guilt and fear (1-2)

A. Micah felt guilty about stealing money from his mom and returned it because he feared her curse (1).

B. His mom tried to reverse her curse with a blessing (2).

- Definition: Conscience is God's work in all people to prompt a sense of guilt, but which is reliable only if submitted to God (Romans 2:15; Hebrews 9:14).

### II. Syncretism: Mixing truth with error (3-12)

A. Mother's syncretism: Micah's mom dedicates an idol to God – which God hates (3-4; Deuteronomy 27:15)!

- Definition: Syncretism is forming a personal religious idea by mixing a variety of ideas – some true, some not.

B. Micah's syncretism: An idol, an ephod, a priest (5-6)

- He has a shrine – like pagan Canaanites
- He has an ephod – like God's priests
- He makes his son a priest (the Law required priests) but his son wasn't a Levite – which violated God's Law.

**Doing what is right in our own eyes (Judges 17:6)**

- Can we trust our thoughts as Christians? (Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:15-16; Hebrews 4:12)

### III. Selfishness and Pride: Thinking we can manipulate God to give us what we want (7-13)

A. Micah and the Levite both got what they wanted (7-12)

- Spiritual opportunism: The young Levite wanted to be independent and make a living. Micah wanted a personal priest.

B. Micah thought he could manipulate God to bless him by having a personal priest (13).