

## **B. Spiritual Prostitution (2:16 – 3:6)**

In the previous section, we were introduced to the idea of a ‘Cycle of Sin’ that plagued the children of Israel. The people would rebel against God and worship the gods of the surrounding people groups. This would cause God to become angry, similar to the way a parent would become angry when his child is disobedient. This anger is an outworking of His love for His people. As a means of getting their attention, God would then allow one of their enemies to oppress the Israelites. When that oppression became more than they could bear, they would cry out to God in repentance and God would deliver His people through the leadership of one of the judges. The people would then live in peace and obedience until the death of that judge. Then they would return to living even more corrupt lives than their predecessors.

### **Married Prostitute**

*Judges 2:16-17*

*How does God see our idolatry?*

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*How does God respond to the Israelites and their idolatry?*

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### **The Judge or the Idols?**

*Judges 2:18*

*What was God’s purpose and plan when raising up judges in Israel?*

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### **Gods, Plural**

*Judges 2:19*

*What happened when God’s appointed judge died?*

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*Who did the Israelites serve instead?*

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***Who were these other gods? And why were there so many?***

***Think back to God's instructions to His children entering into the Promised Land. What did He instruct them to do? (Deuteronomy 31:1-8)***

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***Why is it so dangerous to worship the LORD plus?***

***What can we do to guard against this tendency toward syncretism?***

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- First, identify ALL the alternative 'gods' in our society today.
- Second, take an honest look at every area of our lives—family, career, ambitions, time, possessions, recreation, etc.—and ask two questions:
  - 1) Am I willing to do whatever God tells me to do in this area of my life?
  - 2) Am I willing to accept whatever God sends my way in this area of life?

### **The Mercy of Judgment**

*Judges 2:2:21 – 3:6*

***According to Judges 2:21-22, what was God's purpose in no longer driving out the nations that inhabited the Promised Land?***

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***In Judges 3:1-2, what were the purposes of God in these verses?***

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***Did the Israelites pass or fail these tests? (Judges 3:5-6)***

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