

## Life Group Discussion Material – Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> Message

### The Rise & Fall of Abimelech (Judges 9)

#### *Judges – The Cycle of Sin*

1. Read Judges 9:1-6. What steps does Abimelech take in order to fulfill his covetous desires?
2. We often categorize envy/jealousy/covetousness as a “lesser sin.” Is it concerning to think that one person could do such wicked deeds because of a covetous heart?
3. The danger in covetousness is that it is subtle. Explain how covetousness lies at the heart of many other sins. (*Leader’s hint: Before someone steals, they covet the item. Before someone commits adultery, they covet that person. Before someone lies, they covet a desired outcome.*)  
Read the following Scriptures: *James 4:2; Exodus 20:17; 1 John 2:15-17*
4. Read Judges 9:26-29. What are some of the foolish things that Gaal did?
5. Have you ever spoken and later regretted it? Do you care to share?
6. As Christians, how do we honor God with our mouths? How is this different than the world? Read Ephesians 4:29.
7. Read Judges 9:42-49. Abimelech did not just run his adversary, Gaal, out of town, but he took the violence to the next level against the people of Shechem. What is the irony here as you read the end of the parable in verse 15 as told by Jotham?
8. God, through Jotham, predicted the outcome of Abimelech and the people of Shechem’s disturbing arrangement in 9:7-21. How should the people of Shechem have responded after Jotham’s message in verse 21?
9. Why is it so important for us to repent when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin? What are some of the possibilities if we don’t repent?  
Read the following Scriptures: *1 John 3:8-10; Revelation 2:5; 1 John 1:8,10*