

The Man Whose Secret Was Revealed

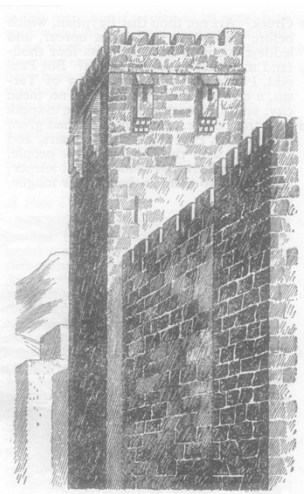
Judges 9:50-57

Gideon (also known as Jerubbaal) had many wives resulting in seventy sons. He also had a concubine who gave birth to a son named Abimelech (*Judges 8:30-31*). After Gideon's death, wicked Abimelech hired other worthless men and brutally murdered his brothers, the seventy sons of Gideon (*Judges 9:5*). However, the boomerang of Divine justice would later find the murderer. A woman on the roof of a tower used a millstone as a weapon. She sent it flying down upon Abimelech's head, resulting in a broken skull and imminent death (*Judges 9:53*). While he yet had breath, Abimelech called to the young man who carried his weapons and said, "Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, '***A woman slew him***'" (*Judges 9:54*). He wanted to avoid the total embarrassment of going down in history as the mighty warrior who was slain by a woman.

As it turned out, God decided to include this incident as part of His inspired Word. Every year millions of people read about what Abimelech wanted to keep secret. In our lives there may be things we have done which we wish could be kept secret, but nothing is hidden from God: "All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (*Heb. 4:13*).

Thankfully, our holy God not only sees all and knows all, but He is very merciful and forgiving even when it comes to our secret failures and faults. We need to be open and honest before Him, and live in a way that clearly shows to all that we belong to the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us. The day is coming when God will bring to light the hidden things of darkness (*1 Cor. 4:5*). **May we not be ashamed before Him on that day** (*1 John 2:28*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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