**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. October 14, 2018**

**What Goes Around Comes Around**

Judges 9, 10,

**Key Truth:** To follow the Lord is to reject selfish ambition and to seek the betterment of others.

**Abimelech’s Struggle For Power and Preeminence:**

1. Abimelech was not content with being one among many.

2. Abimelech desired power over influence.

3. Abimelech lived and died by the motto “by any means

 necessary”.

**Life Lessons**:

1. Trust God to give you promotion vice manipulation.

2. Be careful who you follow and listen to.

 A. Choose your leaders prayerfully, Biblically, and

 wisely.

 B. Choose your friends wisely. Proverbs 1:10-19

3. Selfish ambition leads to self-destruction. Judges 9:27-21

 A. Don’t be deceived you reap what you sow.

 B. If you hang with wicked people don’t be surprised

 when they treat you wickedly.

4. Seek God over power. Matthew 20:20-28

 A. Don’t try to spiritually manipulate God with your false

 worship or allegiance.

 B. Leadership isn’t as easy as it looks.

 C. Be content in what God has prepared for you.

 D. Serve others rather than seeking to be served.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Think less about yourself and more about serving others. Look to Jesus Christ for your identity and purpose.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How would you define “ambition”?

Is ambition a good or bad thing? What determines whether it is or not?

What are some of the effects of the bad kind of ambition?

What can we do to ensure we are being ambitious for the sake of Jesus rather than working to gain some advantage, privilege, or recognition for ourselves?

Most of us believe that there’s nothing wrong with gaining more power and influence. Yet this week we saw how Abimelech’s thirst for power resulted in his demise. God’s remedy on how to avoid this kind of downfall is somewhat counter-intuitive – it’s not to become powerless, but rather to redirect our focus on what to be strong or powerful in. As you read Matthew 20:24-28, how does Jesus redirect the focus of how our “power” should be applied?

Read Philippians 2:1-5: What is the cure for selfish ambition.

Read James 3:13-16 & 3 John 9-12: How did we see this affect Abimelech’s relationship with his brothers? How can we apply that to our life in church?