

Abimelech

Abimelech was a son of Gideon by a Shechemite concubine.

Abimelech was a man with an overwhelming desire for power, this may have been the result of the tension created by his being the only son of Gideon's concubine, one against 70 other sons, such odds can either crush a person or make them ruthless.

Judges 9:1-6 [New King James] *“Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, ‘Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: “Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?” Remember that I am your own flesh and bone.’ And his mother's brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, ‘He is our brother.’ So they gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men; and they followed him. Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, because he hid himself. And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all of Beth Millo, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth tree at the pillar that was in Shechem.”*

Abimelech in his hunger for power became overwhelming.

People who desire power always outnumber those who can use power wisely once they have it.

Perhaps this is because power has a way of taking over and controlling the person using it.

This is especially true in cases of inherited but unmerited power.

Abimelech's life shows us what happens when hunger for power corrupts judgement.

A person's thirst for power is not satisfied with the power they get.

Eventually Abimelech could not tolerate any threat to his power.

By this time ownership had changed, Abimelech no longer had power – for power now owned him.

One lesson we can learn from Abimelech's life is that our goals control our actions.

This can be both positive and negative, according to our goals.

The amount of control is related to the importance of the goal.

Abimelech's most important goal was to have power, this lust for power led him to wipe out not only his brothers, but also whole towns that refused to submit to him, [**Judges 9:42-56**].

Abimelech's death was especially humiliating for he was killed by a woman, not by fighting.

The contrast between Abimelech and the other great people whose lives are recorded in God's Word, the Christian Bible, **simply stated is that Abimelech wanted to control people. The great servants of the Creator God wanted to be controlled by God.**

Which goal do we have in our life?