

## Consumer? Judges 19-21

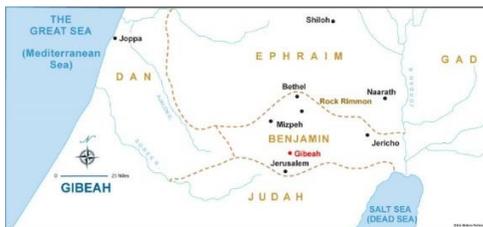
All men are consumers.

Since the fall of man, all men have consumed forbidden fruit.

In last week's story we saw Cain consume Abel.

In this week's story, we will see men consume women.

There is not a more deplorable account in the bible of men consuming women as this story in Judges 19-21. The following story occurred in Israel during the period of the judges. (14<sup>th</sup> century BC to 11<sup>th</sup> century BC)



What are eight example examples of men being consumers in this story?

### 1. The Levite had a concubine

A concubine was a servant that could also be used to satisfy a man's lust and further a man's progeny. She was considered a second-class wife that did not have equal status with the wife. Her and her descendants would not receive the same share of any inheritance.

### 2. The old man offered his virgin daughter and the Levite's concubine to the men

### 3. The Levite gave his concubine to the men of Gibeah

### 4. The men of Gibeah gang raped the Levite's concubine

### 5. The Levite showed no compassion for his concubine

### 6. The Levite cut up her body into 12 parts and sent those parts to the tribes of Israel

### 7. The men of Israel took 400 virgin women from the city of Jabesh Gilead and gave them to the men from the tribe of Benjamin

8. The leaders of Israel offered the men from the tribe of Benjamin 200 virgin women from the city of Shiloh.

This story more than any other in the bible shows how men had the wrong view of women. They were just another asset to be consumed to satisfy their lusts. They could use them or dispose of them to satisfy their own desires.

What are examples of men consuming women today?

1. Fornication
2. Adultery
3. Pornography
4. Verbal assault
5. Sexual harassment
6. Sexual assault
7. Physical assault
8. Neglect

All these examples show how men today have the wrong view of women. Women are just another asset to be consumed to satisfy men's lusts. We can use them or dispose of them to satisfy our own desires.

What is God's view of women? (Genesis 1:26-28)

- The first man and woman were created in the image of God.
- The first man and woman were created to rule.
- The first man and woman were created to work together to fulfill God's mission.

God does not view women any differently than He views men?

Why did God make a wife subject to her husband? (Genesis 3:16)

Genesis 3:16

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

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After the fall of man, God instituted human government to maintain order and restrain sin. The first human government institution was in the family. The first man became the head of the first family. The first woman was to subject herself to his leadership.

Because woman was created to rule, she would desire to rule over her husband.

But his position and power would enable him to rule over her.

How have men abused their position and power?

Since the fall of man, instead of using his position and strength to rule righteously, men have used their position and power to view women as inferior and to consume women to satisfy their evil lusts.

What are some other examples of men consuming women?

- In the bible

1. Men before the flood
2. David and Bathsheba
3. Tamar and Amnon
4. Malachi

- In History

1. The history of war
2. The history of kings

- In Hollywood society, movies, and the music industry Women are frequently portrayed as objects to be consumed by men.

- In the news

The news is filled with stories of men using and disposing of women to satisfy their lusts.

- In society

Current statistics reveals men are using and disposing of women to satisfy their lusts.

- In my personal history

My view of women was like the men in this story.

So many men in my life have been like the men in this story.

1. The gang bang story
2. The drunk women story
3. The dog story

Men are consumers of women.

How have women responded to being consumed by men?

The woman in this story did not have a choice to be a concubine. There are women in our world today that do not have a choice.

Currently, over **20 million adults and children have been bought and sold** worldwide into commercial sexual servitude, forced labor and bonded labor. **Women and girls make up 96% of victims** of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Sex traffickers imprison their victims or addict their victims to drugs to control them. Some women do not have a choice.

But most women do have a choice and they are using their choice to present themselves as objects to men that are consumers.

**Do not compromise your dignity and choose to be a concubine to a man that is a consumer!**

If you have compromised your dignity it is time to confess your sin and ask God to change your heart.

Men, it is time to stop being a consumer of women like the men in this story. It is time to get real about your evil attitude toward women and ask God to change your heart.

How does God want a man and wife to relate to one another?

Since the beginning, God has not changed what he prescribes for government of the family.

**Ephesians 5:23-24**

**23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.**

**24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.**

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That tension will always be there until Jesus returns.

- **Through Jesus, a man can love His wife as Christ loves the church. (Ephesians 5:25 and 33)**

He can honor her dignity even though he is the government leader of the home. Through Jesus, a man can treat his wife and other women with the dignity they deserve.

- Through Jesus, a woman can respect her husband's position and show him the respect he deserves. (Ephesians 5:22-24 and 33)
- Through Jesus, a husband and a wife can develop a relationship of mutual love and respect so that it is impossible for an outsider to see that a man is ruling over his wife. (1 Cor. 7:2-5)
- Through Jesus, a woman can preserve her dignity and present herself a pure virgin unto God. (2 Cor. 11:2)

But only through Jesus.

Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus suffered the shame of every man's sin and every woman's sin to save us from sin and restore our dignity.

Jesus rose from the dead to give us a new life in Him.

Will you receive Jesus?

Men, will you change how you relate to women?

Women, will you change how you relate to men?