

## **Oxford Baptist Church June 17, 2016 – Father’s Day**

**Pastor Robin W. Pifer**

**Message: Tola: A Life Well Lived.**

**Scripture: Judges 10:1-2; 1Chron 12:32**

Stages of Life – Learning years, Labouring years, Leading years, and Legacy years.

After the time of Abimelek, a man of Issachar named Tola son of Puah, the son of Dodo, rose to save Israel. He lived in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim. <sup>2</sup>He led<sup>[a]</sup> Israel twenty-three years; then he died, and was buried in Shamir. Judges 10:1-2

**“Ordinary Godly Men Make Generational Impact.”**

The book of Judges shows us our potential for greatness and our capacity for catastrophe.

**His Examples – Father Puah (Splendid) and Grandfather Dodo (Beloved).**

**He – Tola – means worm or scarlet.**

- Shamir – Thorn, Hard Stone/Diamond
- Hill Country of Ephraim.
- Happy Life, Good Life, Godly Life
- Are you really living? John 10:10
- Jesus is the author of life.

**He – Rose up to Save Israel.**

- Judges 9 – Tola follows the wickedness and recklessness of Abimelek.
- Judge – Military, Judicial, Family Business, Farming
- A man of the tribe of Issachar
- Israel – 23 years

- Not much happened or did it. Take the long view.
- Tola – means progress. 1Cor 11: 1; Joshua 24:14-15, 31

**He – Good Death and Buried in Shamir.**

- One of the Diamonds in Shamir
- Tola made progress. Judges 10:3-4
- Tola left with no scandals or controversies.
- Tola left a legacy. Generational Impact.

**1Chron 12:32-** from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command... **Exodus 20:4**

### **Life Group Questions**

1. When you divide your life into four stages what are three priorities in each of those stages for you to concentrate on for spiritual and legacy health?
2. Why is the example of Fathers and Grandfathers so important to future generations? Exodus 20:4
3. How does living “in Christ” or having a relationship with Jesus cause us to really live? Read John 10:10 and John 15:1-8
4. Why is the long view so important as we live our lives?
5. Tola could have taken a “worm view” of his life but instead took the godly view which is progress. How does this impact you personally when you consider the Lord’s purpose for your life?
6. The Judges period is described as “everyone did as they saw fit in their own eyes”- Judges 21:25. In what ways is this the mantra of our society? What are 3 ways that we can live counter-culturally to this belief?
7. If you were to only have two verses written about you what would they say? Write your legacy verses now before you die.
8. What was your greatest take away from this message?