

## “Jephthah (part 2)”

*Judges 11:12 – 40*

**Review:** *Last Week’s Story of Jephthah.*

- Story
  - Jephthah was the son of a harlot – He did not have a good heritage. (vs. 1)
  - Jephthah’s half-brothers disowned him and eliminated him from the family inheritance. (vs. 2)
  - Jephthah leaves and gathers together a band of misfits. (vs. 3)
  - The time comes when Israel finds themselves in trouble and needing help in their fight against the children of Ammon, so they called upon Jephthah. (vs. 4-6)
  - A deal is made between Jephthah and Israel. (vs. 8-11)
    - Jephthah makes an agreement to help them if he is made the leader.
- Lessons
  - Do not hold a person’s past against them.
  - Do not push someone away because they are not like you.
  - Don’t let somebody’s mistreatment of you cause you to be destroyed.

**Open:** *Jephthah’s Story (part II)*

- Jephthah deals wisely with the children of Ammon. (vs. 12- 27)
  - Jephthah’s knowledge of History allows him to reason with the enemy.
  - Ammon was mad at Israel for taking his land when they left Egypt over 700 years earlier.
  - Jephthah reminded Ammon that it was his ancestors who refused to let Israel peaceably pass through on the way to the promised land.
  - Ammon does not want to listen to reasoning; all he wants is what he thinks is rightfully his.
- Jephthah waits for the Lord’s approval before going to war, and experiences victory. (vs. 29, 32-33)
  - Jephthah did not trust his own wisdom, nor go in his own strength.
- Jephthah, in his passion to do a work for God, makes a vow to God. (vs. 30-31; 34-40)
  - Jephthah makes a promise to offer, as a burnt offering to God, the first thing that walks out his front door upon his return home.
  - Jephthah did not consider the effect his vow would have on his family.

### **I. Be wise before declaring war.**

- **Prov. 20:18** *“Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.”*

A. Jephthah did not allow the heat of the moment to determine his response.

- i. **Prov. 15:1-2** *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. [2] The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.”*
- ii. **Prov. 15:18** *“A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.”*
- iii. **I Cor. 2:15** *“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.”*

B. Jephthah allowed the facts to be revealed before condemning the enemy.

- i. **Deu. 17:6** *“At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”*
- ii. **Deu. 19:15** *“One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”*
- iii. **II Cor. 13:1** *“This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”*

C. Jephthah waited until he had God's approval and power before declaring war.

- i. **I Sam 17:47** *"And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."*
- ii. **I Cor. 15:57** *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

## **II. Do not allow your passion for victory to destroy those around you.**

A. Do not make a foolish vow because of your lack of faith in God's ability to keep His promise to you.

- Jephthah did not even need to make a vow to procure a victory. God had already sent His Spirit to guide him to victory. **Judges 11:29-31**

B. Not only should you consider the sacrifice your making; but you should also ask yourself, "What sacrifice am I asking those I love to make with this promise to God?"

- i. **Ecc. 5:4-6a** *"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. [5] Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. [6] Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin..."*
- ii. Jephthah's daughter had to pay the ultimate price for her father's vow to God.
  - Are you willing to sacrifice the next generation on the altar of success?

C. Do not sacrifice your children on the altar of success. Do not seek to gain victory or success in life at the expense of your family.

- **NO** victory or success, in any area of your life, is worth losing your family over.
- i. **Prov. 20:25** *"It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry."*
  - ii. Because of Jephthah's vow he was not known as a man who saw great victory; but a man whose family made a great sacrifice.

### **Romans 12:16**

*"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."*