

Jephthah: The Dangers of a Rash Decision

Judges 10-12

Reading the book of Judges can be very depressing. This book chronicles the years in Israel between the death of Joshua and the appointment of Saul as their first king. Judges is a book of lawlessness and ignorance. The spiritual climate of the book is found in the last verse of the book: *“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes”* (Judges 21:25 KJV). This book is a painful reminder that people seldom learn the lessons of life. The positive side of the book is that God never completely forsakes us when we return to Him. One of the men God used to deliver the people of God from their oppressors made some very poor choices: His name is Jephthah. His choice was rooted in an ignorance of God’s word. The lesson from this lesser known man in scripture is that God honors faith but he does not ignore ignorance! And that ignorance can lead to terribly destructive consequences.

I. INTRODUCTION: *“Acts of faith...or folly!”*

II. EXPOSITION:

A. The Setting of the Book:

B. The Rejection of Jephthah by his Family

1. His Character

2. The Challenge

3. The Conflict

4. His Companions

C. An Astonishing Request

1. The Request Itself

2. Jephthah’s Amazing Response

D. Jephthah’s Vow

E. Jephthah’s Victory

F. Jephthah’s Dilemma

God honors faith and overlooks ignorance but that ignorance is costly!

“If your concept of God is radically false, then the more devout you are, the worse it will be for you. You are opening yourself up to be molded by something base. In terms of your practical life, you’d better be an atheist.” William Temple

III. CONCLUSION AND LASTING LESSONS:

(This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying this morning’s message. Sixth in a series of messages by Pastor Hornok on “Lesser Knowns...Better Known”. This message is available online at www.MidvalleyBible.org. MBC 8/2/2015)