

Judges 11: Jephthah's Victory and Vow

Getting started: When have you made a promise and then later came to regret it?

Read 11:1-11**Jephthah is Called**

1. What did Jephthah have going in his favor? What gray cloud hung over him? What could he do about that cloud? (vv. 1-2)
2. What kind of persons was drawn to Jephthah? Why do you think this was so (v. 3)?
3. What caused the men of Gilead to reach out to Jephthah? (vv. 4-5) Why was Jephthah surprised by their inquiry? (vv. 6-8) What did the men promise Jephthah if he would help them? (vv. 9-11)

Read 11:12-28**Jephthah Judges**

4. What does the king of Ammon want the people of Gilead to give back? (vv. 12-13) How does Jephthah respond to the enemy's request? (vv. 14-21)
5. Who does Jephthah insist gave Israel the land east of the Jordan? (vv. 23-24) What does Jephthah argue would be true if the shoe were on the other foot? (v. 24)

6. Who does Jephthah invoke to help them against the people of Ammon? (vv. 27-28) What does that title suggest Jephthah expected God to do?

Read 11:29-40**Jephthah Vows**

7. What vow does Jephthah make as he advances into battle? (vv. 30-31) How did the battle turn out? (vv. 32-33)
8. What happened when Jephthah returned home? (v. 34) How did Jephthah respond to the unexpected surprise? How did his daughter respond? (vv. 35-36)
9. What did his daughter request to do? (vv. 37-38) In your opinion, how did he fulfill his vow? (v. 39) What did the daughters of Israel do each year to lament this vow? (v. 40)

Going Deeper

10. Sadly, Jephthah is probably remembered more for his rash vow than for anything else. His life reminds us of the seriousness of taking vows, promises to God (c.f. Deut. 23:22; Eccl. 5:5; Prov. 20:25). Since that is so, when is it appropriate to make vows and when is it not appropriate to make vows to the Lord? What should a person do if he fails to keep a vow to the Lord?