

Date: 10.18.26

Text: Judges 10:17-11:40

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Ted Rastatter

Overview: Jephthah, the mighty warrior, was the son of Gilead and the son of a prostitute. He was rejected and cast out by his half brothers where he went to live with sketchy company in the land of Tob. When the Ammonites came to make war, the men of Gilead came back to him to get them out of a bind. Jephthah agreed, on the condition that he would be their head (ruler) if the LORD gave the Ammonites into his hand. Jephthah did his best at diplomacy with the King of Ammon but it ultimately failed and they went to war. The narrative ends with the tragic vow that Jephthah made to offer whatever was first to come out of his house as a sacrifice if God would give him victory. Jephthah's daughter, unfortunately, was the one who came out of the house. She was permitted to mourn her virginity for two months before she returned and Jephthah made good on his vow.

Discussion Questions

1. Judges emphasizes the deterioration of people who have no king to rule them. How would you answer a secular humanist who says the answer to the problems of the world is better education and a way out of poverty?
2. We want heaven without headship. In what areas of life are you tempted to want the blessings of following Jesus without submitting to His authority? Why do we sometimes view God's rules as restrictions on our freedom rather than guardrails that lead to life and rest?
3. Jesus is not only our Savior but our King. Jephthah's people wanted him when they needed his help, but they had previously rejected him. How might we treat Jesus similarly?
4. We are called to contend for the truth. Jephthah defended Israel's history and God's authority when they were challenged. How can we stand firm in biblical truth in a culture that often rejects God's authority while still demonstrating humility, gentleness, and love toward those who disagree with us? (See 1 Peter 3:15.)

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

5. We cannot manipulate God into giving us what we want. Jephthah's tragic vow reveals his attempt to secure God's favor through his own efforts rather than trusting God's character. When are you most tempted to bargain with God or believe you must do something to earn His favor? How does the gospel free us from that mindset?
6. We need a better Jephthah. Compare and contrast Jephthah to Jesus. How does seeing Jesus as the perfect Savior and King change the way you trust Him?