

Sermon Discussion Questions: The Vow and the Mercy (Judges 10:6–12:7)

Series: Shattered Saviors and Fractured Faith

- Have you ever tried to “make a deal” with God? What kinds of things do people tend to bargain with God about today?
- **Read Judges 10:6–16.**
 - How does Israel’s idolatry in this passage compare to earlier parts of Judges? What’s different about God’s response this time?
 - In verses 15–16, how do the Israelites respond after God tells them to go to their false gods for help? What do we learn about God’s character from verse 16?
- **Read Judges 11:29–31.**
 - Jephthah is already empowered by the Spirit, so why do you think he makes this vow? What does this reveal about his understanding of God?
- **Read Judges 11:32–40.**
 - How does the outcome of Jephthah’s vow add weight to the sermon’s main idea? How does this story compare to the gospel?
- **Read Romans 4:4–5.**
 - What does Paul say about grace and works here? How does this passage speak directly to our tendency to treat faith as a transaction?
- What are some subtle ways Christians still try to earn God’s love or approval?
- Which of these tendencies resonated with you most? Why?
 - Praying strategically rather than honestly
 - Feeling abandoned when life doesn’t go well
 - Thinking sin disqualifies you from God’s love
 - Equating spiritual disciplines with blessing
 - Assuming obedience guarantees comfort or protection
- Which one of the below is hardest for you? Which one do you want to grow in?
 1. Pray honestly, not strategically
 2. Read Scripture to receive, not to achieve
 3. Obey out of love, not for love.
- How does this passage challenge your view of your identity as God’s child? Do you view yourself more as a performer or as someone already accepted and loved?
- How can your group support one another in living from grace instead of performance?