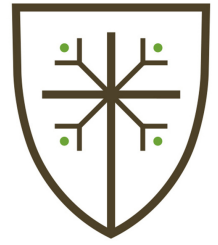


# RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Sermons for Lent

# SERMON NOTES



March 26, 2023

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

Right in their Own Eyes: Legacy

### PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

### TEXTS

Judges 10, 11, 12

Romans 12:1-3

Matthew 19:27-30

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does a legacy marked by humility run counter to everything our culture teaches?
2. How can the season of Lent shape us into those who share in the legacy of Christ? (instead of simply being a pause from sin and vice)

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

"Israel again did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord." This is the refrain we've heard over and over again in our series on Judges. And this week, it seems to have even heightened in intensity. In chapters 10-12 in Judges we hear the story of Jephthah. And in this story, both Jephthah and the nation of Israel are seeking after a legacy, something that will make their name be remembered throughout history.

### A Legacy Desired

At the beginning of chapter 10, there are seven named gods that the people of Israel are seeking after instead of their own God. In the Bible, seven is the number of completion. Israel's abandonment of God is now total and complete. They are devolving backwards into slavery. They have sold themselves for power, for a political legacy and a place among the nations that surround them. And the only time they call upon the Lord is, as we've seen in previous chapters, when they are under serious oppression and need deliverance. They are attempting to manipulate God for their own ends, for the preservation of the legacy they seek.

Jephthah too is seeking after a legacy. The same as they did with the Lord, the Israelites have cast out Jephthah and only disinherited him until they need him. And he negotiates with the people and with God in an attempt to build a name for himself. Whenever you wonder what people think of you and want them to think a certain thing, you're building a legacy. But what are you sacrificing for that legacy? Jephthah ended up sacrificing his only daughter, the only chance he had to build an inheritance for himself. His attempt to bargain with God in order to secure himself victory, fame, and a place of power in Israel backfires on him.

### Legacy Redirected and Redeemed

The word "sacrifice" in our passage literally means "to go up." Jephthah's daughter, in being sacrificed in this story, is not put to death. She is given up or consecrated to the Lord, meaning she will never bear children. Not only will Jephthah's lineage not continue, but she loses her chance of becoming physically a part of the Messiah's legacy. She is a sign of a willing living sacrifice who redirects their legacy to God and redirects Israel's worship to the Lord.

God's legacy is not found in power, but in self-giving love and trust. Christ has no political line, but he has you and me. The Church is Jephthah's daughter. The Church is Christ's legacy.

In Romans, Paul says "present your bodies as a living sacrifice...Do not be conformed to the world but be transformed." Humility is the mark of Christ's legacy. So are you being transformed into the legacy of Christ. Are you building a legacy marked by humility?

All legacies, no matter how tarnished they seem to us can be redirected and redeemed in Jesus. Jesus' legacy begins on the cross, the lowest point anyone could go, so he can meet you however low you might be.