

1

(Series Overview Slide and Message Title)

All of us know about lines.

-- Whether as a word picture, "If you cross that line . . ."

-- Or the literal line that we had to stand behind when the buses rolled into school, of which our vice-principal said, "Stand behind the yellow line!"

TR: The most important line is the one that divides . . .

**Right in
Our Own
Eyes**

**Right in
Yahweh's
Eyes**

- . . . the right side, when we do what is right in God's eyes . . .**
-- and the wrong side, when we do what is right in our own eyes.
- We all struggle with wanting to be or go to the wrong side.**
-- We may go way over,
-- . . . or over just enough so we can reach back and convince ourselves that we are not all bad,
-- . . . or even be on the right side but close enough to cross the line for a thrill every so often.
- TR: We all still struggle with the same thing that Israel did in the time of the Judges . . .**



3

... we like doing what is right in our own eyes ... and if there are no immediate consequences, we convince ourselves that it is the right side of the line.

-- In the OT book of Judges, God raises up men and women to deliver the people back to the right side of the line.

-- One of those shepherds, a word used for leaders, was Jephthah.

-- He was from the east side of the Jordan, part of the land that God, through Moses, gave to 2 and ½ tribes.

TR: From this extended account, chapters 10-12, we want to glean .

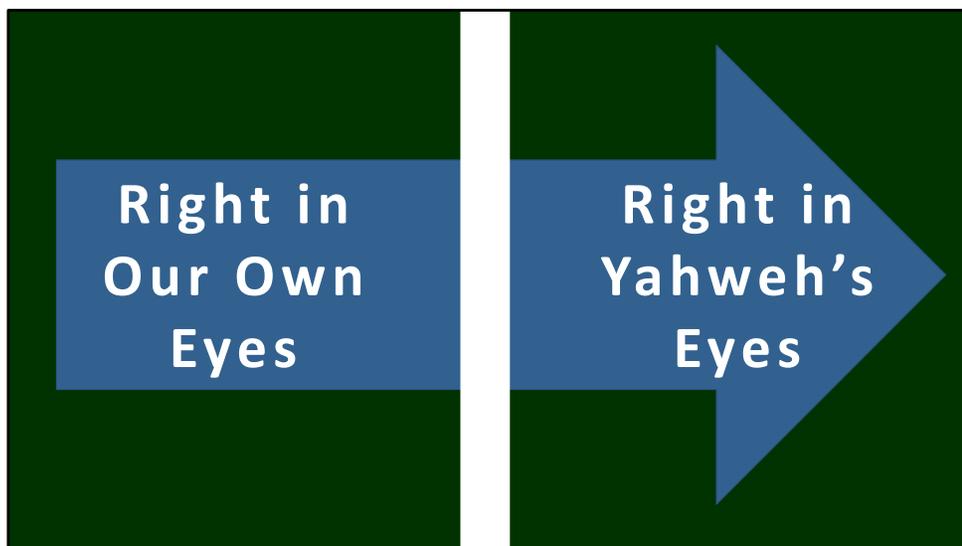
..

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

4

**... 4 requirements to cross back ... from the wrong side ... the side of doing what is right in our own eyes ...
-- ... to the right side of doing what is right ... really RIGHT, because it is so in the eyes of Yahweh, the Creator God Whose character is the standard of right and wrong.**

TR: In a moment we'll look at some warnings for those tempted to cross over to the wrong side, but first, let's ...



... grab hold of these 4 requirements that are needed for us to CROSS BACK.

-- There is a horrible phrase describing the condition of the people of God many centuries later, just at the point of the exile ...

“UNTIL THERE WAS NO REMEDY.”

-- If you are listening today, know that I speak out of compassion for your soul.

-- God is showing you the way back.

-- Don't be like the people for whom there was NO REMEDY ...

“who mocked the messengers of God and despised His words” (2 Chron. 36:15-16).

TR: Let's hold off on the first verses of chapter 10 and start with ...

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) R_____

6

... 10:6-18.

TR: Hoping that you have or will read the text in its entirety, let me give you a brief overview . . .

Judges 10:6a, 7b, 8b, 9b

6aThe people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD . . .

7b(Yahweh) sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites,

8bFor eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel . . .

9bso that Israel was severely distressed. ESV

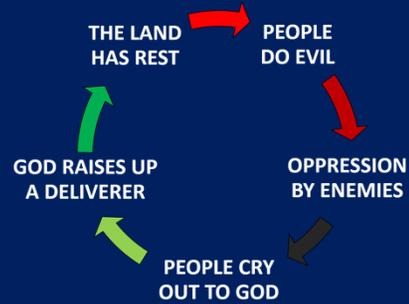
7

READ SLIDE

TR: And finally in verse 10 . . .

Judges 10:10a

10a And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD,

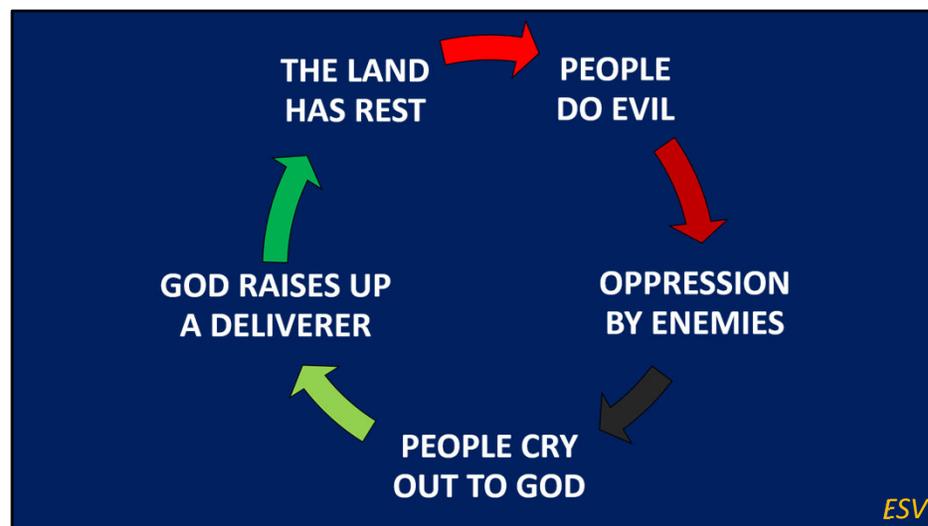


ESV

8

READ SLIDE

TR: For those who have been going through this part of God's Word with me . . .



... you are familiar with the cycle of Judges.

-- Some of you have emailed me and humbly admitted that you have seen a similar cycle in your own lives.

TR: By now, we've come to expect that when the people cry out to God that He would raise up a deliverer, a judge. But follow along in your Bibles down to verse 11 ...

Judges 10:11a, 13

11^aAnd the LORD said to the people of Israel, “Did I not save you from . . .”

13Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; **therefore I will save you no more.**

ESV

10

We read . . . READ SLIDE (11a) . . .

-- . . . reflecting the 7 foreign gods mentioned in verse 6, the LORD gives account of 7 acts of His saving in verses 11-12.

-- And then the horror of verse 13 . . . READ SLIDE (13)

-- Some of us are in this pattern . . . we cross the line, face the consequences, say we're sorry and DEMAND that we be restored to the right side.

TR: Now, if we were God that would it. But God is so merciful. He so yearns for us to come back. Look at verse 15 . . .

Judges 10:15-16

And the people of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to you. Only please deliver us this day." ¹⁶So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD, and **he became impatient over the misery of Israel.**

ESV

11

READ SLIDE

- Something deeper seems to be happening.
- There are no more excuses. No more blaming others. No more deflecting responsibility.
- There IS doing the next right thing, whether it makes life easier or not.

- And the LORD, Yahweh, became impatient over His people's misery.
- God does not want you to be miserable. He does not want to declare NO REMEDY. He wants to save you!

TR: The first requirement to cross back is . . .

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) Repentance

12

... true repentance.

-- [repentance] and [the fruits of repentance]

TR: Though we will look at the big warnings in a moment, is section sign-posts at least two . . .



13

READ SLIDE

-- Some have had affairs and been forgiven. How foolish to think that they can have another and expect or even demand the same grace.

TR: Another warning is that . . .



14

READ SLIDE

- This is a review from our winter study in 2 Corinthians . . .
- . . . just being sorry for the consequences is not repentance, just worldly remorse.

TR: This section doesn't just speak warnings. But with the presentation of the requirement of repentance, we also find that .

..



15

READ SLIDE

- God's covenant-faithful love is our only hope.
- We don't deserve it. We can't earn it.

TR: The second requirement to cross back is found . . .

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

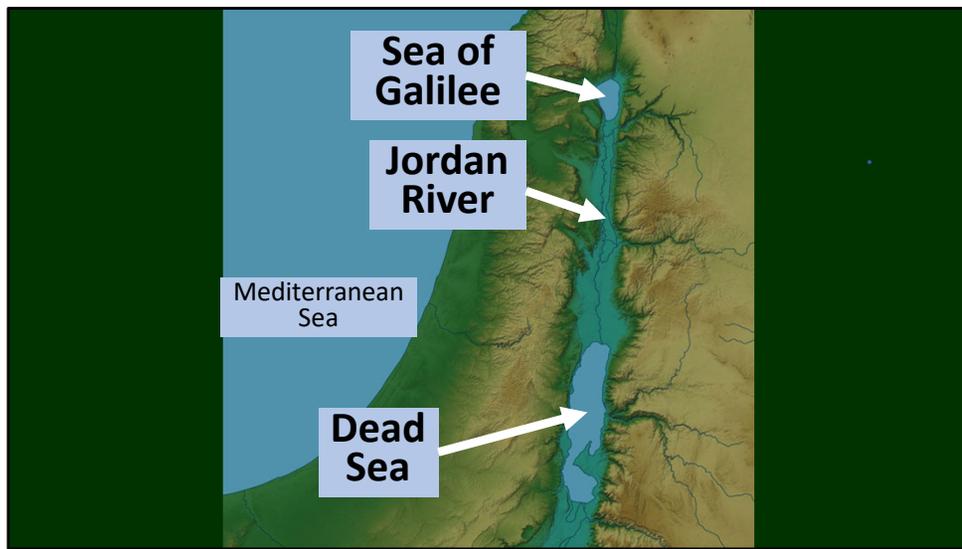
(10:6-18) Repentance

(11:1-11) H_____

16

... in the first part of chapter 11, where we learn of our Judge for the day, Jephthah.

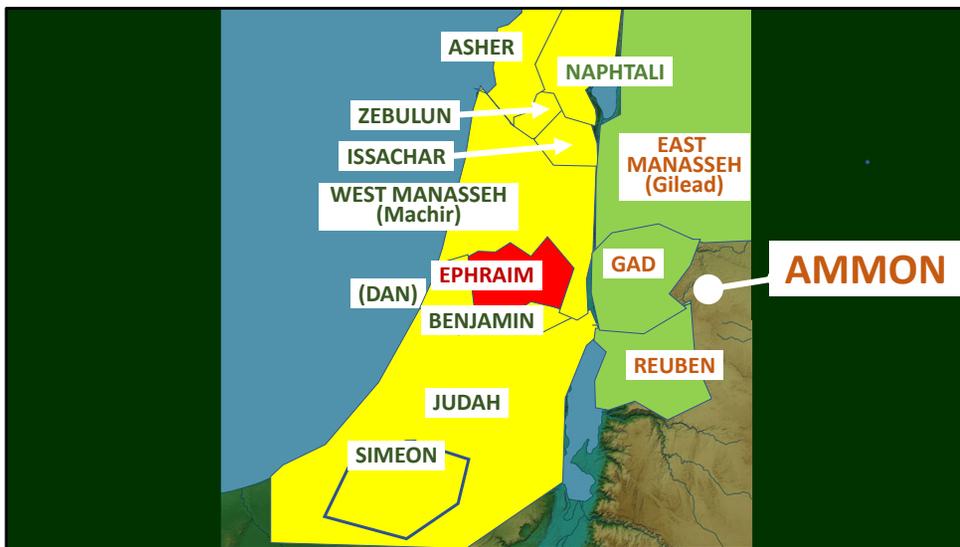
TR: Remember that the geography of the land of Israel is centered around ...



17

... REVIEW SLIDE.

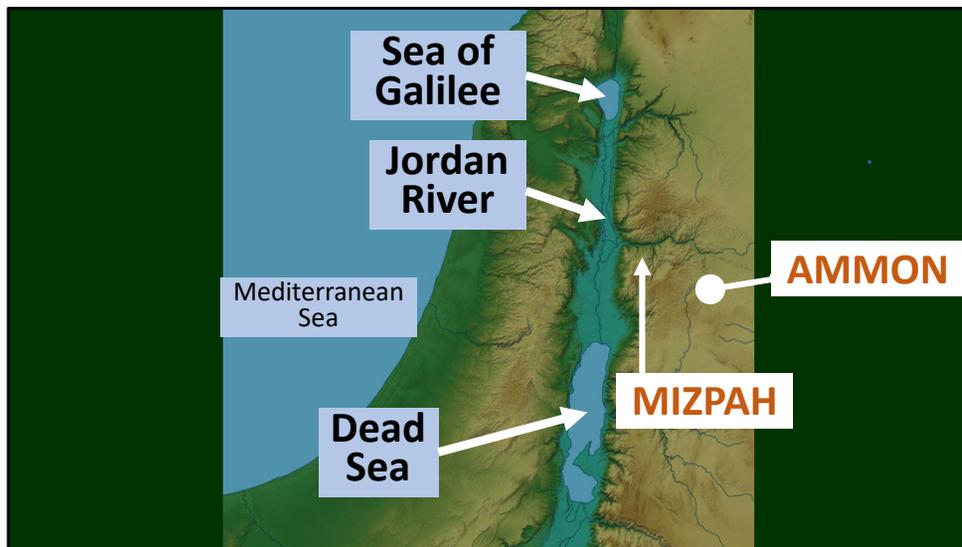
TR: In chapters 11 and 12 we are dealing with ...



18

**. . . the tribes that were on the east side of the Jordan.
-- The main enemy who oppressed Israel for 18 years was Ammon.
-- Note as well the location of Ephraim on the west side of the Jordan . . . they come into play a bit later in our story.**

TR: The impatience of the LORD with the misery of Israel led to His raising up . . .



19

... a man from Mizpah, just south of the Jabbok River.

TR: Again, please skim this section with me ...

Judges 11:1, 3

¹Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a **mighty warrior**, but he was the son of a prostitute. Gilead was the father of Jephthah.

³Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, and **worthless** fellows collected around Jephthah and went out with him.

ESV

20

READ SLIDE (v. 1)

-- His brothers did not want to share the inheritance with this illegitimate . . .

READ SLIDE (v. 3)

-- We're not sure where Tob was, probably further north to the east side of the Sea of Galilee.

-- [worthless] is literally "empty" (probably derogatory since the word describes the kind of men evil Abimelech bought as mercenaries . . . but also descriptive of men looking for a purpose in life . . . a leader).

TR: God stirs the men of Israel to prepare to fight back against the Ammonites but they need a leader . . .

Judges 11:5b-6a, 7

^{5b} . . . the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob. ⁶And they said to Jephthah, “Come and be our **leader,**

⁷But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “Did you not **hate me and drive me out** of my father’s house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?”

ESV

21

READ SLIDE (5b-6)

-- Jephthah implicates the leaders, who may either have included his half brothers or at least agreed with their running Jephthah out of town, saying . . . **READ SLIDE (7)**

TR: The elders now go beyond asking Jephthah to be a LEADER . . .

Judges 11:8

And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “That is why we have turned to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the Ammonites and be our **head** over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

ESV

22

READ SLIDE

-- they ask him to be their **HEAD** of all those on the east side (Gilead)

TR: Jephthah agrees but requires a legal binding of the offer . . .

Judges 11:10-11

And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, **“The LORD will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say.”**

¹¹So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at **Mizpah.**

ESV

23

READ SLIDE

TR: The significance of this agreement, and where it happens, came to my mind . . .

Genesis 31:48-50

Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he named it Galeed, ⁴⁹and **Mizpah**, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another’s sight. ⁵⁰If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, **God is witness between you and me.**”

ESV

24

... back in the first book of the Bible we read of another agreement at Mizpah.

-- A place also called Galeed, which the NLT tells us means “witness pile.”

-- Mizpah, also according to the NLT, means “watchtower.”

-- May God be the watchtower witness of our covenant.

-- Isn’t this what happens at a wedding? “Before God and these witnesses”

TR: This second requirement is one that the text certainly illustrates, even if I am less sure that it the main point of the author in including it . . .

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) Repentance

(11:1-11) Humility

25

To cross back to the right side of the line . . . takes HUMILITY.

-- It takes humility to admit we've messed up and gone to the wrong side.

-- EX: Like me before GPS . . . "Are we lost, Dad?" "No, we're on a 'family adventure.'"

-- That's what I said to Kathy when we took a two-track that Tom Keef had warned me about but I really hadn't paid attention to.

-- The humility of the elders to admit they were wrong and approach Jephthah.

-- And the humility of Jephthah to accept their apology.

TR: Again, there are a couple of implied warnings . . .



26

READ SLIDE

- Some of us are letting our pride get in the way of crossing back to the right side.
- We are angry about being labeled . . . perhaps not as the illegitimate child of a prostitute, but . . .

TR: For more of us the second warning is an important signpost . . .



27

READ SLIDE

--

TR: Please don't imagine that I think we can cross back without God's grace . . .



28

. . . this account underscores that READ SLIDE

-- Jephthah's lineage was not his fault . . . but the world in its sin always wants to judge others, often by things that they have no control over (like their family of origin or their skin color).

-- How easy it would be to allow our injured pride to become the defining quality of our lives . . .

-- . . . when it is the humble to whom God gives grace.

TR: The requirements to cross back include . . .

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) Repentance

(11:1-11) Humility

(11:12-28) P_____

29

... repentance, humility, and then from verses 12-28 in chapter 11
... we find a third requirement.

-- This section covers Jephthah's attempt to avoid the battle by giving four reasons why the Ammonites do not have right to the land, but Israel does.

-- This speech reflects that somewhere along the line, Jephthah studies his Bible.

TR: Ultimately, his argument is summarized in verse 23 . . .

Judges 11:23-24

“So then the LORD, the God of Israel, **dispossessed the Amorites** from before his people Israel; and are you to take possession of them? ²⁴Will you not possess what **Chemosh** your god gives you to possess? And all that the LORD our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess.”

ESV

30

READ SLIDE

-- Remember, Jephthah is talking with the Ammonites, not the Amorites.

TR: In verse 27, we read . . .

Judges 11:27

“I therefore have not sinned against you, and you do me wrong by making war on me. The LORD, the Judge, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon.”

ESV

31

READ SLIDE

TR: To cross back to the right side, we will need . . .

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) Repentance

(11:1-11) Humility

(11:12-28) Perspective

32

READ SLIDE

- Jephthah reviews history, his history as part of the people of God.
- Yes, his history includes things not to be proud of.
- But, his history is tied to God's gracious choice of His people.

TR: The warning here is that . . .



33

READ SLIDE

- Our enemies, the world, our old natures, the devil . . . all want us to forget who we are in Christ.
- They want us to identify with those whose homeland is the **WRONG SIDE**.
- Even now some of us are sensing the Holy Spirit reminding us of when we first trusted Christ as Savior and Lord.
- He is reminding us that now we are new creatures.
- He is giving us the **PERSPECTIVE** of biblical truth, no matter what our feelings and how much the world wants to get our head and hearts spinning.
- CF. "What side of the tracks do we belong on?"

TR: Our hope, the hope that draws us back to the RIGHT SIDE is . . .



**, , , the hope of God Who knows our hearts,
-- Who loved us enough to provide us an eternal inheritance
through Christ,
-- Who gave us the Holy Spirit as the down payment, the guarantee
of all that is to come.
-- It is HOPE and not just GUILT that draws us back.**

**TR: (FOURTH REQUIREMENT) Some of us feel stuck in the Judges'
style cycle of sin and repentance. Perhaps what is missing is the
fourth . . .**

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) Repentance

(11:1-11) Humility

(11:12-28) Perspective

(11:29-40) S_____

35

... requirement.

-- We find this in verses 29-40 of chapter 11.

TR: It is tied to that for which Jephthah is most often remembered

...

Judges 11:29a, 30a

29a Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah . . .

30a And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD . . .

ESV

36

. . . his vow.

-- After the negotiations with Ammon fell apart . . .

-- READ SLIDE

TR: His vow, if the LORD gave him victory, was . . .

Judges 11:31

“. . . then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”

ESV

37

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 32 . . .

Judges 11:32

So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand.

ESV

38

READ SLIDE

TR: Down to verse 34 . . .

Judges 11:34-35b

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. ³⁵And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes . . .

ESV

39

READ SLIDE

- Remember, he had vowed that whatever came from the doors of his house would be the LORD'S.
- He had said that he would offer it up as a burnt offering.

TR: Most of us would just not keep our vow, but Jephthah says . . .

“For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow.”

³⁹And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made.

ESV

READ SLIDE (35)

-- His daughter agrees that he must keep his vow but asks for two months to go into the mountains with her friends and weep for her virginity. (39)

-- The question of the vow relates to whether it was sinful or perhaps just costly.

-- Evidence for it being human sacrifice is tied to the word used for burnt offering, assuming that this is another example of “doing what was right in their own eyes.”

TR: But there is another option that I am leaning strongly towards

...

EVIDENCE FOR PERPETUAL VIRGINITY AS TEMPLE SERVANT

- J. knew law of God too well for human sacrifice
- J. probably knew a human would exit house
- If expect only animal = too small a sacrifice
- J. could be grieving the end of his family line
- Why bewail virginity and not her death?
- Conjunction in 11:31 can be “or” (instead of “and”)
- Lev. 27 provides for redemption of “vowed people”
- Would God have blessed a sinful vow?
- “Lament” in 11:40 is better rendered “to recount”

41

The list on the next two slides is on your sermon notes page.

-- The key points, without reviewing the list:

-- Jephthah knew the Law and showed respect for the LORD.

-- The Law provided for monetary redemption of people and things vowed to God (Lev 27)

-- The text says the daughter grieves her virginity, not being able to have children, not her death.

-- The tradition that was established about young maidens . . . “recounts” what happened, not necessarily “laments” it.

TR: The list (available in your sermon notes) goes on . . .

EVIDENCE FOR PERPETUAL VIRGINITY AS TEMPLE SERVANT

- J. seems emotionally balanced (negotiations)
- Where would J. sacrifice? Would priests allow? Would the people have allowed (cf. Saul and Jonathan)
- Women serve at Shiloh (see 1 Sam. 2:22 & Ex. 38:8)
- Perhaps a “daughter of Shiloh” (Judges 21:21)
- This was after “Spirit of the LORD” was upon J. (11:29)
- Samuel approves of J. (1 Sam. 12:11)
- J. in Hebrews 11:32 (Hall of Fame of Faith)

42

This balanced man who would negotiate before fighting . . . would he make a vow that expected a human to come through the door?

-- . . . where would he have sacrificed his daughter?

-- There is some evidence for women ministering at the Temple, though not as priests.

-- As for some of the other points of reasoning, we know that believers sin and that God can approve of part of our lives and not the whole . . .

-- . . . so the arguments about the Spirit coming on him, Samuel and the Hall of Fame of Faith references of approval are only supplementary.

-- BUT, put all together, there is at least strong reason to doubt that it was a human sacrifice.

TR: Assuming that it was not a foolish, even sinful, vow . . .

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) Repentance

(11:1-11) Humility

(11:12-28) Perspective

(11:29-40) Sacrifice

43

. . . it becomes a powerful picture of the need to sacrifice to cross back over the line to God's side.

-- We must be ALL IN.

-- We cannot hold back . . . anything.

-- Jesus tells us to pluck out our eye or to cut off our hand . . .

radical moves that tell us we must do whatever it takes to get to the RIGHT SIDE of the line . . . God's side.

TR: We must hear the warning . . .



44

READ SLIDE

- Our word is our bond.
- We certainly should not keep our word if our word was to do a sinful act.
- But we struggle to get back to the right side when we hold back and try to find some way back that doesn't cost us very much.

TR: Even as Jephthah vowed all of himself to God's mission . . .



. . . the text makes clear that his (and our) hope is in God's provision, not our sacrifice.

-- As 11:32 says: "So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand. "

TR: Let's review for a moment . . .

4 REQUIREMENTS TO CROSS BACK

(10:6-18) Repentance

(11:1-11) Humility

(11:12-28) Perspective

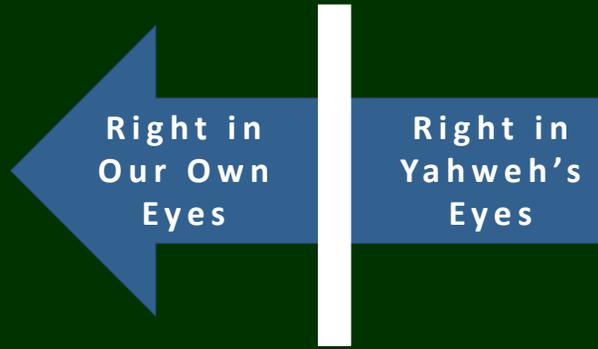
(11:29-40) Sacrifice

46

If we are on the **WRONG SIDE**, we will need . . . **REVIEW SLIDE . . .**
to **CROSS BACK** to the **GOD'S SIDE**.

TR: For those of us who right now are on the **RIGHT SIDE**, there are two more warnings from Chapter 12 and the initial verses of chapter 10.

MORE
2 WARNINGS BEFORE CROSSING OVER



47

If you are tempted right now to **CROSS OVER** to the wrong side, or to live as close to the line as possible . . .

TR: . . . hear this . . .

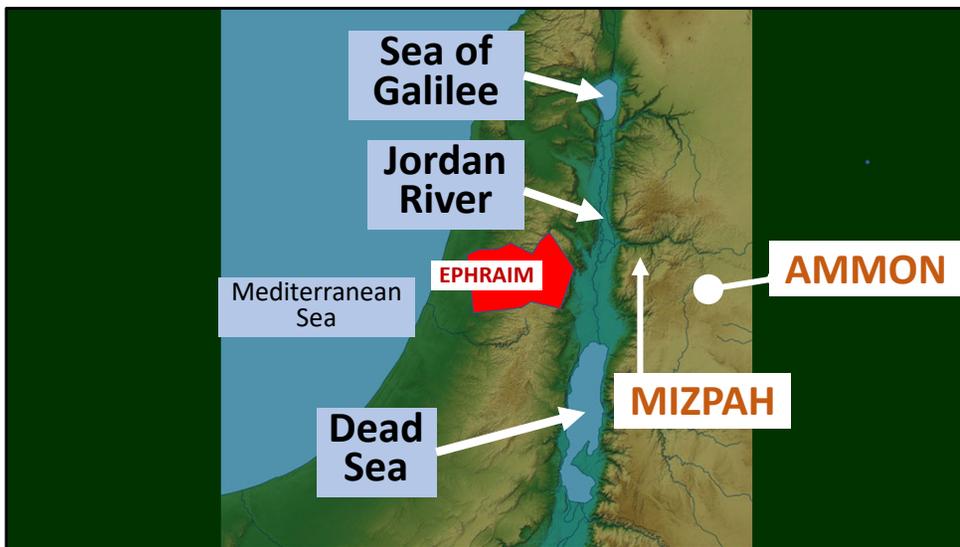
MORE
2 WARNINGS BEFORE CROSSING OVER

**(12:1-6) There may ____ be a
way _____!**

48

From the first verses of chapter 12.

TR: We run into a group of people, a tribe of Israel, that seems to repeat the same arrogant mistake they made in confront Gideon years earlier.



We're talking about the tribe of Ephraim, on the west side of the Jordan.

-- Ammon had made raids into their land and they too were oppressed for the 18 years, but probably not to the degree as the tribes of Gilead on the east side.

TR: Chapter 12:1 says . . .

Judges 12:1

The men of Ephraim were called to arms, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, “Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire.”

ESV

50

READ SLIDE

- Just like with Gideon, they were ticked that they weren't called into the fight.
- They are mad enough to threaten death by fire for Jephthah and his household.

TR: Jephthah answers . . .

Judges 12:2c-3

. . . when I called you, you did not save me from their hand. And when I saw that you would not save me, I took my life in my hand and crossed over against the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into my hand.

ESV

51

READ SLIDE (first two lines)

TR: Verse 4 continues . . .

Judges 12:4c-5c

And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, “You are **fugitives** of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh.” ⁵And the Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any of the **fugitives** of Ephraim said, “Let me go over” . . .

ESV

52

READ SLIDE

- In a sense the Ephraimites said the Gileadites weren't really part of God's people.
- This time the men of Ephraim didn't capture the fords of the Jordan, but rather the men of the east side did.

TR: They figured a way to ferret out who was trying to escape back to their homeland . . . those who said they were from Ephraim were put to death right away and those who lied and said no . . .

Judges 12:6

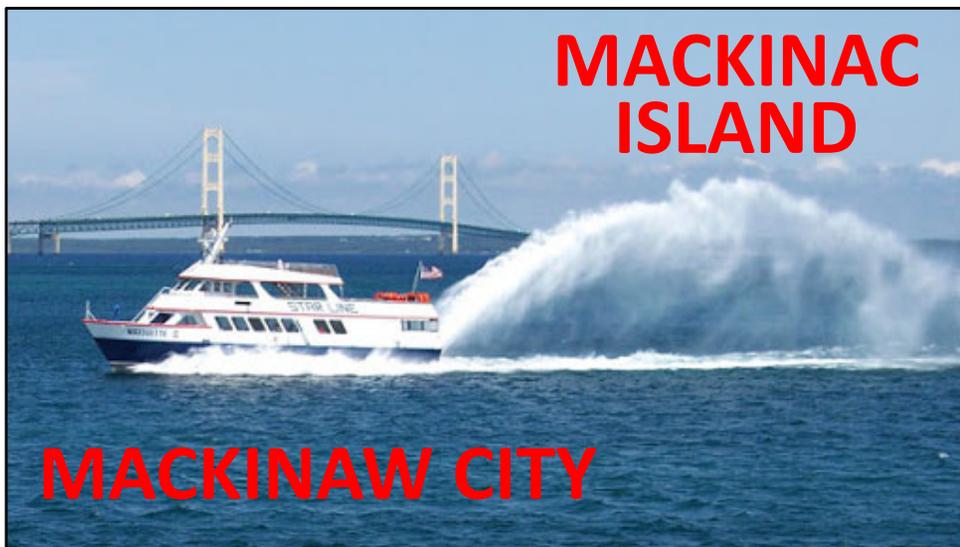
. . . they said to him, “**Then say Shibboleth,**” and he said, “Sibboleth,” for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time 42,000 of the Ephraimites fell.

ESV

53

. . . by making them say, Shibboleth.

TR: A similar differentiation became clear the first few years we lived in Michigan.



54

Cf. my initial struggle with knowing how to pronounce these place names (see slide)

-- Some question if Jephthah was vindictive in killing so many, but the text doesn't really tell us whether this is viewed negatively.

-- Cf. danger of reading into stories what we want – like looking at art and being asked, “What do you think it means?”

TR: Don't miss the warning for us. The men of Ephraim, acting out of injured pride, vindictively went to the **WRONG SIDE of the line. If we use the Jordan river as a metaphor of the line, the warning is**

...

MORE
2 WARNINGS BEFORE CROSSING OVER

**(12:1-6) There may not be a
way back!**

55

READ SLIDE

- Christianity makes clear that God is gracious. But there is a danger that we start to presume on that grace.
- You may be thinking about having an affair, or stealing from work, or gossiping about your neighbor . . .
- . . . assuming you can come back to **GOD'S SIDE** after a brief foray across the line.

TR: Be careful. As it says in the NT . . .

Hebrews 10:26-27

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

ESV

56

READ SLIDE

-- EX: Catching chipmunks in pail with water and sunflower seeds

TR: One last warning . . .

MORE
2 WARNINGS BEFORE CROSSING OVER

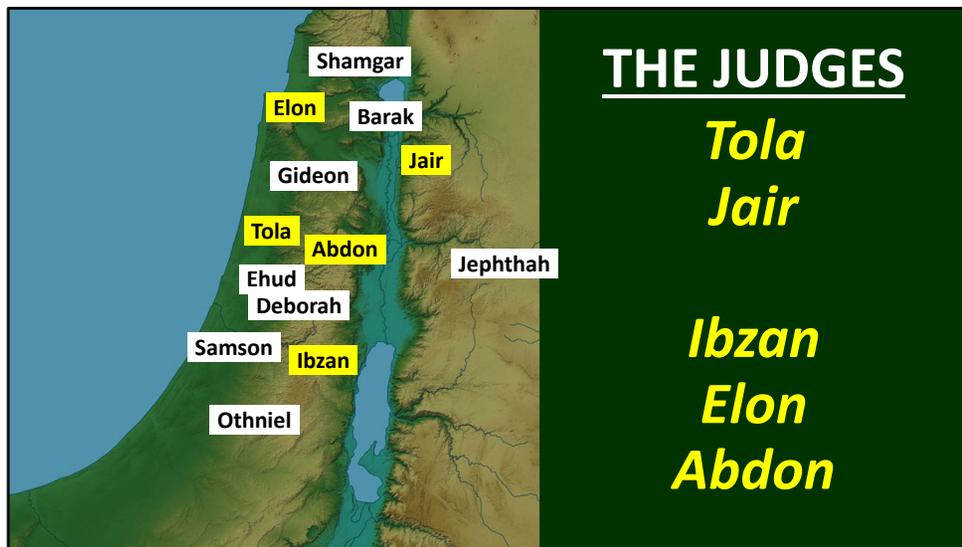
(12:1-6) There may not be a
way back!

(10:1-5 & 12:7-15) P_____ can
easily lead to complacency!

57

... for those who right now are on the **RIGHT SIDE ... GOD'S SIDE .**
.. it comes from the bookends of our very lengthy text.

TR: Jephthah is a major judge that we read much about. But there are also MINOR judges . . .



58

... that serve before and after him.

TR: Not very much is said about these individuals. No mention is made of them leading any military campaigns to deliver God's people from oppression.

Tola – 23 years
Jair – 22 years - wealthy
Jephthah
Ibzan – 7 years - wealthy
Elon – 10 years
Abdon – 8 years - wealthy

ESV

59

We read about the length they served.

-- AND that every other one was wealthy, as seen in the number of children and that the kids rode donkeys.

-- This would be like pointing to one of the larger families in our church and exclaiming they all drove brand new pickups.

-- The assumption would be that their dad and mom were loaded and influential.

TR: Remember the cycles of Judges as we consider this warning . . .

MORE
2 WARNINGS BEFORE CROSSING OVER

**(12:1-6) There may not be a
way back!**

**(10:1-5 & 12:7-15) Prosperity can
easily lead to complacency!**

60

READ SLIDE

-- Right now things may be going so well that you can't imagine crossing the line.

TR: But remember the warning given in Moses' words . . .

Deuteronomy 8:12-14

. . . lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴**then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God,** who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery . . . ESV

61

READ SLIDE

- Cf. our “chief end of man” = happiness
- VS. glory of God and the development of our character
- Extended prosperity makes the line more and more fuzzy
- Cf. the commonness of professing Christian singles “overnighting” with each other.

TR: There is a line . . .

**Right in
Our Own
Eyes**

**Right in
Yahweh's
Eyes**

62

If we've crossed it, then we will never CROSS BACK if we . . .
-- . . . roll our eyes when we say, "I'm sorry."
-- . . . allow our pride to keep us from doing the right thing?
**-- . . . forget all that Christ died to give us . . . our inheritance
guaranteed by the Spirit?**
**-- . . . don't want it bad enough, or are there things we won't give
up to get back to the right side of the line?**

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) Have you ever faced a time when you “cried out” about the suffering your sin has caused, and God (or your parents or friends) did NOT come to the rescue? Share how you processed this unexpected response.
- 2) Have you ever had to NOT immediately come to the rescue, but allow someone to face their sin and their consequences more fully? Was this hard for you? Or did you feel good drawing “a hard and fast line that cannot be crossed”? Explain.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 3) Satan, our ultimate enemy, wants to take away our inheritance rights. Jephthah reviewed the perspective of Israel's history. What could we review about God's provisions for us . . . so that we know we are fighting to possess what is rightfully ours?
- 4) How can humility help us back across the line to God's side AND help us stay on His side when we are tempted to cross over to doing what is right in our own eyes?

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 5) Pick a recent temptation and trace the potential path of destruction as one small decision turns into a larger one and then still a larger one . . . until there is no way back. How can thinking like this help us to not “play near the line?”
- 6) Share any other applications the Lord laid on your heart. Also any prayer requests you have.