



## The Book of Judges

Lesson 7

Jephthah: The Outcast

Important! It's interesting to notice that not only does idolatry lead to slavery, but slavery to idolatry.

Question: What slavery do you find yourself in chasing idolatry? It has many forms; relationships, sports, jobs, or even family members.

Read: Judges 10:6-14

- God didn't abandon Israel, but he did stop protecting them against the nations that they prostituted themselves to their idols.

Read: Romans 1:23-25

Worshipping idols again leads to slavery. Losing God's presence.

Question: Is anything hindering your presence with the Holy Spirit?

Read: Judges 10:15-18

Question: Do you want God, or what God gives you? Which aspects of God's perfection will you meditate on so that you love him more than you love his blessings?

Read: Judges 11:1-11

- Jephthah is like a crime boss, born of a prostitute. Yet God calls him a mighty warrior. He comes from an absolutely dysfunctional family. Basically, he was an outlaw.

Question: Jephthah does not simply rise to leadership despite his rejection and suffering. He is fitted for it. How is the Lord using you in your everyday life as a leader, father, husband, or being the man of God he has called you to be?

Read: Judges 11:14-28

- Jephthah sends a message to the Ammonite king reminding him of what God actually did for Israel. They tried to find their way to the promise land with peaceful negotiations. The nations refused.

Question: King Ammon paid no attention to Jephthah's message. He was basically ignored. Give an example of a petition you have made to a person or a cause and yet you were ignored. How did you deal with that?

Read: Judges 11:24-40

- The Vow – This is perhaps the worst story in a terrible portion of Israel's history.
- Because the culture around Jephthah was violent, he let the world violence come in and live alongside his true beliefs. He became "Jaded" in his thinking.

Tough Question: In what ways have you allowed culture to "Jade" your thinking? How are you working through those thoughts and allowing the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh perspective?

Read: Judges 12:1-7

- 42,000 members of the people of God die at the hands of the people God. Jephthah tries to be diplomatic and yet he did not hesitate to strike those within God's people who opposed him.

Question: If we spent as much time pursuing unity and overlooking insults within our churches as we do seeking to remain on good terms with the world, our communities would be far less divided and far more loving. Where am I too quick to judge my fellow Christians?

Next Week: Read Judges 13:1-25

Samson: A Miraculous Birth