

JEPHTHAH

JUDGES 11 (11-27-11) *Piper Bible Church*

Even great people of faith make mistakes, but there is no reason to continue making the mistakes.

I. Jephthah had some great qualities

A. Though Jephthah was a social outcast, he grew to become the leader of his homeland.
V. 1-11

B. Jephthah's negotiations revealed that he was a man of faith who knew the Lord.
V. 12-28

1. Jephthah gave the king of Ammon a reply with a 400 yr history lesson of how God had given this land to Israel.
2. Jephthah revealed by his negotiation that he was not some hothead.
3. He also revealed that although he had been rejected, he did not reject God, nor his people.
Heb.11:32-33 lists Jephthah as part of God's hall of fame of faithful people.

II. Jephthah made some bad mistakes

Remember – even great men of faith can make bad mistakes (Like Abraham, David & Peter).

A. Mistake # 1

V. 29-31

1. It's human nature for us to think that we can earn God's favor & make deals with Him.

Mistake # 1 = Jephthah makes a deal with God.

2. Scripture warns against this practice – James 5:12.

V. 32-33 – God gave Jephthah victory, not because of his deal with God, but because God had already heard Israel's cry unto Him & determined to deliver Israel.

B. Mistake # 2

Mistake # 2 = He thought the Lord wants us to get hurt when we sacrifice to Him.

Doing what God wants may cost you, but that doesn't mean you should seek hurt to please Him.

II Tim 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Some Christians in the past used to partake in *Ascetic practices* to try to please God.

This stuff does not win any favor with God.

Jesus & His Apostles never did this stuff, nor told anyone else to.

There is no replacement for simply doing the right thing – I Sam 15:22.

C. Mistake # 3

V. 34-35

We should be people who keep our word – Deut 23:21-23.

V. 36-40 – Jephthah sacrificed his own daughter to the Lord.

Deut 18:10-12 – Sacrificing their own children is 1 reason the Canaanites were being driven out.

Jephthah sacrificed his own child, which they were clearly told not to do.

Mistake # 3 = carrying through with a bad vow.

Scripture told him what to do: Lev 5:4-5 – confess to God that the vow was a sin.

Just do the right thing – I Sam 15:22