

Deliverance from the Son of a Harlot

Judges 10 - 11

Deliverance from the Son of a Harlot

- Judges chronicles the years in Israel between the death of Joshua and the appointment of Saul as their first king.
- The book is a series of scenes of lawlessness
 - Judges 21:25 - “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Deliverance from the Son of a Harlot

- Israel would abandon the Lord for idolatry.
- God would chasten them by allowing their enemies to defeat and enslave them.
- After a period of enemy oppression, Israel would repent.
- God would raise up a judge to deliver them.
- They would be set free from their enemies.
- A few years later the cycle would repeat itself.

Deliverance from the Son of a Harlot

- Jephthah was a man rejected by his family, cast out by society, and written off by everyone who should have cared about him. But in the end Jephthah became the leader of his people.
- But he was not a completely righteous man. He was chosen to lead by the people
 - Judges 11:5-6

Deliverance from the Son of a Harlot

- Jephthah was a mixture of the spiritual and the worldly.
- While he was not the Lord's choice as Judge in Israel, the Lord enabled Jephthah to lead the people to victory.

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- Israel had no right to judge others as unworthy
 - Judges 10:6-18
- Judges 11:1 - “Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah.”

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- Jephthah's character
 - Judges 11:1 - “a mighty man of valor” meaning “strength, ability and courage”
- Jephthah's challenge
 - “He was the son of a harlot” and his father's name was “Gilead,” a man involved with harlots
 - According to Josephus, Jephthah's father was of the tribe of Manasseh and his mother was a Gentile prostitute of the Ishmaelites

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- Jephthah's conflict
 - Judges 11:2 - "Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."
 - Jephthah's father also had children with his own wife.

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- Jephthah's presence in the family was a constant reminder of their father's infidelity.
- They may have despised Jephthah all their lives, envying him as he was a strong, capable, and brave man. He was everything they were not, and they turned on him.

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- Ex. 34:7 - “Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.”
- This does not mean that God punishes us for what our parents did. It does mean that what our parents did can often be reproduced in our lives
- Children often develop attitudes similar to their parents, with the same likes and dislikes. We carry the influence of our family with us throughout life.

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- However, some break the cycle. Just because your parents did certain things to you or around you does not mean that you have to.
- Jephthah was not like his father, scattering children all around the country; he had an only child at home - Judges 11:34

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- Jesus experienced the same rejection from his family and neighbors
 - John 7:3-5 - “His brothers therefore said to Him, Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world. 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”
 - Mark 3:21 - “But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, He is out of His mind.”

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- Jephthah's companions
 - Judges 11:3 - “Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out raiding with him.”
 - When Jephthah left the family home, he went to Tob, located east of the Jordan River in Syria.
 - Unemployed, empty, worthless men looking for something to fill their time and their stomachs, gathered to Jephthah, a leader, and formed a band of raiders

Jephthah Is A Pariah

- God can use flawed vessels to accomplish His purposes
 - Psalm 37:23-24 - “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.”
 - Birds of a feather flock together. Men like Jephthah came to Jephthah
- Jephthah’s life experiences prepared him for this duty. Rejection made him a better man.

Jephthah Is Petitioned

- The cause of the request
 - Judges 11:4-5 - “It came to pass after a time that the people of Ammon made war against Israel. 5 And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.”

Jephthah Is Petitioned

- The nation is under attack and they have no leader
 - Ammonites are trying to dominate Israel. The children of Ammon were the descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot through an incestuous relationship with one of his own daughters. The Ammonites were cousins to the Jews, but they were also perpetual enemies.

Jephthah Is Petitioned

- The character of the request
 - Judges 11:6 - “Then they said to Jephthah, Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon.”
 - They ask Jephthah, the man they drove out to become an outlaw, to come back and become their leader.

Jephthah Is Petitioned

- The commitment of the request
 - Judges 11:7-8 - “So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress? 8 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”
 - They had no use for him when times were good, but when matters became desperate, they went to him for help.

Jephthah Is Proven

- Jephthah's acceptance
 - Judges 11:9-11 - “So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the LORD delivers them to me, shall I be your head? 10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, The LORD will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words. 11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah.”

Jephthah Is Proven

- His treatment of them is very different from their treatment of him.
- He is not bitter; he was able to get over the things they did to him.
- He was able to get past their self-centered treatment of him and did the right thing because it was the Lord's will, and it was his own nation
- He risked his life for the nation that rejected him

Jephthah Is Proven

- Whether we will accept it or not, how we treat others is a direct reflection of the place God holds in our hearts.
- If we can spitefully mistreat those who are made in God's image and bought by His love and the blood of His Son, it does not say much for our opinion of Him.
- When we love Him as we should, we will love others as we should

Jephthah Is Proven

- Matt. 22:36-40 - “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Jephthah Is Proven

- 1John 3:14-16 - “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”
- 1John 4:20 - “If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

Jephthah Is Proven

- Jephthah's advancement
 - 1Judges 11:11b - “the people made him head and commander over them”
 - The people honored their word and elevated the reject to the position of ruler.

Jephthah Is Proven

- Jephthah's acknowledgement
 - Judges 11:11c - "Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah."
 - Mizpeh means "watchtower"
 - Mizpah is the place where Jacob and Laban made an agreement that they would not attack the other. They called upon the Lord to witness their covenant - Gen. 31:33-55.

Jephthah Is Proven

- God gave Jephthah the victory
 - Judges 11:29 - “Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.”
 - 1Cor. 15:57 - “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Deliverance from the Son of a Harlot

- The reject became the ruler, but he never lived down his past among the people; many never acknowledged his leadership
 - Judges 12:1-4

Deliverance from the Son of a Harlot

- We all have strengths and weaknesses, but the Lord can use us and make something special out of our lives.
- There may be a pattern of sin in our background, but it can be broken
- God can use you in spite of your past, your family, or your failures.
- Your treatment of others reveals how you really feel about God.
- Faithful service to God, with or without the validation of others around you, ensures His regard for you.
- Just do the right thing and trust God for the results and rewards.