



JUDGES

our deepest need



A call to sympathy and self-examination

Scene 1 (10:6-18) -

Jephthah's **religious culture**

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

“For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.”

Isaiah 43:1-4

"The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him."

Judges 10:6

Scene 2 (11:1-11) -

Jephthah's "family" dynamic

Scene 3 (11:12-28) -

Jephthah's **faithful response**

Scene 4 (11:29-40)

Jephthah's **doubting** heart and tragic **vow**

“Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon
Jephthah.”

Judges 11:29

“And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, ‘If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, 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.’”

Judges 11:30–31

“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.

“And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, ‘Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow.’”

Judges 11:34-35

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

Judges 11:39

Scene 5 (12:1-7)

Jephthah's vengeful spirit

“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.”

Judges 12:1

“And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, ‘You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh.’”

Judges 12:4

- Living life as if we were loved by God

- Living life as if we were loved by God



“God’s love is an exercise of His goodness (cosmic generosity) toward individual sinners whereby, having identified with their welfare, he has given His Son to be their Savior, and now brings them to know and enjoy him in a covenant relation.”

J.I. Packer

- Living life as if we were loved by God
- **Laying aside** every impediment and following Christ

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,

“and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

“who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

Hebrews 12:1-3

“God enjoys taking fearful slaves and teaching them to live as beloved sons and daughters. He knows how to peel off layers of selfishness and shame to shape his image in us.

“That’s why the writer of Hebrews called Jesus the Author and Perfecter of our faith. He initiated it on the cross, and with painstaking care he continues to carve, sand, and buff until we become the treasure he fashioned in his heart at the beginning of time.

“It’s a process he controls from start to finish, and it’s a journey that will last a lifetime. You can’t make it happen, but you can choose to cooperate with him and embrace the incredible process he’ll use to produce his glory in you.”

Wayne Jacobsen