

Women's Bible Study

Judges 10:6-12:15

---Then the children of Israel **again** did evil in the sight of the Lord---

1. Setting the Stage: (10:6-18)
 - a. Recognition v.10
 - b. Response v.11-14 (Help can be addressed just as much to the Baals as to me)
 - c. Repentance (parallel to Jonah 3:10)
 - d. Jephthah's background (11:1-3)-illigitamate, outcast, leader of a gang, 'mighty warrior', man of faith (Heb.11:32)
2. Jephthah's call (11:4-11)
 - a. be our leader: acceptance for the outlaw
 - b. negotiating skills (good with **words** as well as deeds)
 - c. parallel between Jephthah and God 1. Ask for help (10:10), 2. Retort (10:11-14), 3. Response in humility (10:15), final word (10:16)
3. Jephthah's diplomacy (11:12-28)
 - a. not deeds but **words** (after 18 years a demand for explanation)
 - b. Response from King (originally Ammonite land)
 - c. 2nd message: History (11:15-22), theology (11:23-24), v.27 "the Lord the Judge"
 - d. 'Thus says Jephthah'(11:15) (**speaking** almost as the Lord)

4. Vow an action (11:29-33)

- a. (11:29) spirit of the lord, and the Lord gives his enemies into his hand (11:32-33)
- b. vow (30-31)

5. Coming Home (11:34-40)

- a. v.35 He opened his mouth once too often (thoughtless vow).
- b. Walkie-talkie (messages mixed)
- c. Keep his word

Reflection: Jephthah makes us ask: What blindspots do I have?

6. What Happened Afterward? (12:1-15)

- a. Ephraim (same 8:1-3)
- b. War within Israel –Treats God’s people far worse than he does himself.
- c. More time in unity and overlooking insults (The churches greatest problem is the church)

7. Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon- focus to hold together of God’s People.

- a. 3 decades of peace and unity

We will finalize our study on Judges on June 13.