

Judges 11

Jephthah son of a Harlot

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior, but he was the son of a harlot. And Gilead was the father of Jephthah.

Disgrace, shame, disadvantaged – *illegitimate* – Jesus carried that stigma ‘we were not born of fornication’ *He was tempted in all ways as we are yet w/o sin.* No matter our physical birth-our new birth born from above.

2 And Gilead’s wife bore him sons; and when his wife’s sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, “You shall not have an inheritance in our father’s house, for you are the son of another woman.” 3 So Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob; and worthless fellows gathered themselves about Jephthah, and they went out with him.

Can’t help how you were born or where or circumstances—you had no control over. But others can use against you. But we are not a victim of birth or what others say & we can’t allow ourselves to be. We are God’s creation fearfully and wonderfully made, great are His works—Made in the image of God. Mercy triumphs over judgment Dt 23:2,3

Our life is what we allow God to make of it & do w/ it. Those gathered to Jephthah like those following David ‘distressed, in debt, discontented 1Sam 22:2. Worthless fellows: poor, no property or employment—patrolling, protecting from marauding bandits for pay, raids on enemies.

4 And it came about after a while that the sons of Ammon fought against Israel. 5 And it happened when the sons of Ammon fought against Israel that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob; 6 and they said to Jephthah, “Come and be our chief that we may fight against the sons of Ammon.” 7 Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “Did you not hate me and drive me from my father’s house? So why have you come to me now when you are in trouble?” 8 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “For this reason we have now returned to you, that you may go with us and fight with the sons of Ammon and become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.” 9 So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, “If you take me back to fight against the sons of Ammon and the LORD gives them up to me, will I become your head?” 10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “The LORD is witness between us; surely we will do as you have said.” 11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him

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head and chief over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.

Ammonites in South of Israel, descendants of Lot—incest – Abraham’s nephew. Now crisis emerges in leadership—need a deliverer.

People repented asking for Jephthah—God’s way of humbling them by choice of KJV bastard and exile to deliver them. He left in disgrace & brought back in honor—Lord humbles before He exalts. Honed his skills as an outcast in the wild. Lesson not to turn against the least of the brethren—they may be a very present help in time of need. And if turned away bear under it, trust God to redeem the time, it is preparation for the next big thing He has for us.

12 Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying, “What is between you and me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?” 13 And the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah, “Because Israel took away my land when they came up from Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and the Jordan; therefore, return them peaceably now.” 14 But Jephthah sent messengers again to the king of the sons of Ammon, 15 and they said to him, “Thus says Jephthah, ‘Israel did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the sons of Ammon. 16 ‘For when they came up from Egypt, and Israel went through the wilderness to the Red Sea and came to Kadesh, 17 then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, “Please let us pass through your land,” but the king of Edom would not listen. And they also sent to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained at Kadesh. 18 ‘Then they went through the wilderness and around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, and came to the east side of the land of Moab, and they camped beyond the Arnon; but they did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab. 19 ‘And Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, “Please let us pass through your land to our place.” 20 ‘But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory; so Sihon gathered all his people and camped in Jahaz, and fought with Israel. 21 ‘And the LORD, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them; so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country. 22 ‘So they possessed all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. 23 ‘Since now the LORD, the God of Israel, drove out the Amorites from before His people Israel, are you then to possess it? 24 ‘Do you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the

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LORD our God has driven out before us, we will possess it. 25 'And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? 26 'While Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, three hundred years, why did you not recover them within that time? 27 'I therefore have not sinned against you, but you are doing me wrong by making war against me; may the LORD, the Judge, judge today between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon.'" 28 But the king of the sons of Ammon disregarded the message which Jephthah sent him.

Jephthah asks why are you challenging Israel? Ammon says 'It's our land Israel stole from us. Not so, fact is Amorites took the land from Ammonites & Israel defeated the Amorites & the spoils go to the victor-the land is ours.

War began when Amorites attacked Israel. **Scenario**-Amorites conquered Ammon, Amorites attacked Israel, Israel defeats Amorites but now Ammon wants their land back. Israel says it is what our God gave us, you go possess what your god Chemosh gives you. Jephthah saw it as a battle of the gods. Brings us to Gaza so called displaced Palestinian refugees.

Deconstructing the Three Stages of the Nakba Myth

Nakba Day ("Day of Catastrophe") the Palestinian myth that provokes hatred throughout the Muslim world--a lie. The exodus of the Arab population--- during the 1948 war, the effective war of extermination launched by many Arab countries against the Jews in the young state of Israel.

The Palestinians were the allies of these countries, and a large number of them left to watch from afar, in safety, as the planned massacre of the Jews was to be efficiently carried out by the Arab armies. They then expected to return & take the spoils of victory that Palestinians anticipated.

Yet their armies were defeated & their politics failed in opposing the partition of Mandatory Palestine—the British mandate or Balfour Declaration of 1948 giving a National homeland to the Jews alongside the Palestinian Arabs.

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The aggressors now became the victims saying the Jews dispossessed their lands when the reality is Arab nations and Palestinians plotted to exterminate, drive out, murder the Jews to upend Balfour and possess their lands for themselves.

The Palestinian aggressors became the victims. The extermination of others became self-pity and compassion.

29 Now the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to the sons of Ammon. 30 And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If Thou wilt indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand, 31 then it shall be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." 32 So Jephthah crossed over to the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD gave them into his hand. 33 And he struck them with a very great slaughter from Aroer to the entrance of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the sons of Ammon were subdued before the sons of Israel. 34 When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, behold, his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing. Now she was his one and only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. 35 And it came about when he saw her, that he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me; for I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot take it back." 36 So she said to him, "My father, you have given your word to the LORD; do to me as you have said, since the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the sons of Ammon." 37 And she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me; let me alone two months, that I may go to the mountains and weep because of my virginity, I and my companions." 38 Then he said, "Go." So he sent her away for two months; and she left with her companions, and wept on the mountains because of her virginity. 39 And it came about at the end of two months that she returned to her father, who did to her according to the vow which he had made; and she had no relations with a man. Thus it became a custom in Israel, 40 that the daughters of Israel went yearly to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

Spirit of the Lord came upon is the key to victory-*w/o Me you do nothing*

In heightened state of spiritual enthusiasm or in a desperate situation, we can make poor judgments--bad decisions--unwise vows, thinking we can persuade God in our favor. Oath, swear not, make no vow by heaven or earth **James 5:12** let your yes be yes and no be no.

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Vows are a form of works righteousness & legalism--when God works He does so w/o our help so He gets credit & glory—never a pay back to us.

Not child sacrifice but consecration to God. *Burnt offerings* synonymous w/ total dedication to God. Animal totally burnt--signifying total offering of self. Here it is a total consecration of a life to Lord, no marriage, no children but celibate life lived to God-*daughter of the assembly to serve*. A blow to Jephthah who had no family life—Human sacrifice forbidden Lev 18:21; Dt 12:31. It a pagan practice

Never did God ask for human sacrifice except His son on cross for our sins. Manasseh in his reign did & it an abomination to God but even then God forgave when he repented. *Lev 27:1-4 Again, the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When a man makes a difficult vow, he shall be valued according to your valuation of persons belonging to the LORD. 3 'If your valuation is of the male from twenty years even to sixty years old, then your valuation shall be fifty shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary. 4'Or if it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty shekels. Ex 38:8 Moreover, he made the laver of bronze with its base of bronze, from the mirrors of the serving women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting.* She became a *daughter for the Tabernacle*—Jephthah a hero of the faith Heb 11:32

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