

God Often Uses Unlikely People

March 28, 2021

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Judges 11:1-28

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

God uses people with Difficult backgrounds to Accomplish Amazing things when they Trust God & His Word

⇒ Jephthah was rejected by his family & society 1-3,7

- v1 we are told what Jephthah will become: mighty warrior
- Jephthah's mother was a prostitute
- Father, Gilead had good heritage and one legal wife
- Jephthah was driven out as he was an embarrassment

⇒ Jephthah fled to Tob & led a band of scoundrels 3

- Jephthah was born leader, worthless fellow collected around
- Likely was predatory thief - between Robin Hood & Al Capone

⇒ Ammonites were making war against the Israelites 4-6

- Judges 10 left us with Ammonites in region of Gilead
- Israelites went to Jephthah & asked him to lead them 5-6
- See God's hand in Jephthah's life: good & bad Isa 45:7
- How will God use you? 2 Cor 1:3-4

⇒ God's Sense of Humor 7-8

- Jephthah rightly asks, 'why now & why me?'
- Jephthah acknowledges that God will give the victory
- Jephthah had some good teaching about God somewhere!

⇒ Jephthah doesn't start by fighting, he negotiates 12-26

- Probably not what Israel was expecting
- Good leaders will always try to negotiate before fighting
- Jephthah knew Biblical truth and history:
 - > Argument from Secular History 15-22
 - Israel didn't take land from Ammonites
 - Israel captured land from Amorites^{Nm21:21-31}
 - > Argument from Biblical Theology 23-25
 - God gave us the victory & the land
 - We can't just surrender what God gave to us
 - > Argument from Chronological History 26
 - Israel lived here for over 300 yrs!
 - Why haven't you made claim before now?
 - > Argument from Personal Integrity 27
 - I've not sinned against you, you are attacking
 - Let the Lord, the Supreme Judge show who is right

Lessons:

- Every person created in the image of God, therefore treat all with respect. You don't know God's plan for that person so assume God will use them for His glory!
- Not matter your background, you may be greatly used by God! Don't accept the lies of the evil one who loves to tell you can't be used by God because... You are Accepted in the Beloved Eph 1:6
- Remember the POWER OF THE GOSPEL is that you are accepted by faith only because of Jesus Christ. It is about what God HAS done, not by your works!
- Never, ever forget that we must stand on God's Word and God's Truth. This world is at war with God's Truth – don't back down and stand firm on God's Word.
 - Remember God's Word won't always tickle ears – it will cut open hearts! 2 Tim 4:3; Hebrews 4:12-13
- Thank God for His Sovereignty in your life - even the bizzare things in your background... He can use for His purposes!
 - Remember because God has adopted you, you are part of His family and as family, we love God and one another!
 - Remember because God purchased you with the blood of His Son, you are now like Jesus, a servant. As a servant you serve King Jesus and you serve others giving them a foretaste of the coming Kingdom!
 - Remember that God sent His Spirit to change your heart. Now as God's Ambassadors we follow His Spirit as we share and show others the Good News of Jesus – the message of the Gospel!