

## The Danger of Not Knowing God's Word

April 11, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 11:29-40

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

### Jephthah:

- Israel had returned to serving the gods of the nations and God judged his people<sup>Jdg 10: 7</sup>
- The people only expressed regret not repentance<sup>10:11-14</sup>
- The people seem to have truly confessed & put away false gods and trusted God<sup>10:17</sup>
- God raised rejected Jephthah to deliver His people<sup>11:1-11</sup>
- Jephthah didn't plunge into battle he tried negotiation<sup>11:28</sup>
- v29 - the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah

### ↪ Jephthah makes an unbiblical vow to the Lord 30-31

- Reckless vow - didn't understand character of God
- Didn't need to make a vow<sup>Deut 23:21-23</sup>
- Vow was violation of God's Word<sup>Lev 18:21;20:2-5;Dt 12:29-31</sup>
- Jephthah was likely more led by culture than God's Word

### ↪ God gave Jephthah great victory over Ammonites 32-33

- God gave according to His plan, no bargaining needed
- Though commended for faith<sup>Heb 11:32</sup> no need for bargain

### ↪ Jephthah returns home, sees his daughter 1<sup>st</sup>! 33-35

- Heartbroken because of his foolish vow
- Jephthah doesn't understand God's grace or character
- His lack of knowledge of God's Word hurt his child

### ↪ Jephthah fulfills his unbiblical vow 36-40

- His daughter trusts his foolishness & lack of knowledge
- She likely had a zeal for God
- Jephthah carries out his vow - either burnt offering or perpetual virgin
- Daughter is remember by women, not rash father<sup>Mt 12:36-37</sup>

### ↪ Jephthah didn't know God's Word or God's Grace

- If only he had known God and His Word!
- Lev 27 shows that God had provided for grace on vow

### ↪ A Civil War and Very Limited Blessings 12:1-7

- Jephthah's final legacy - a civil war with Ephraimites
- Tens of thousands died and Jephthah judged only 6 years
- The price of peace because of Israel's sins was very high

### Lessons:

- Not knowing God's Word is dangerous!
- We shouldn't make rash vows
- God is a God of grace
- We need to study & know God's Word so we don't end up doing stupid or crazy things!
  
- Jesus changes everything in terms of how we relate to God!
- We like Jephthah are tempted to bargain with God
- Jesus fulfilled the ultimate bargain with God for us by coming in the flesh, being crucified, buried and resurrected on our behalf
  
- Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice John 1:29
- We now are to live as spiritual sacrifices 1 Peter 2:4-5
- We no longer live by trying to bargain with God
- Because of Christ and His Spirit we are free to walk and live for God, Peter explains:

*1 Pe 2:10-12 — 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*