

Date: April 6, 2025
Series: Judges: Mankind Exposed
Title: Grace for Sale
Text: Judges 11



INTRODUCTION

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Truth #1 - God can do so much with so little!

Truth #2 - God's grace is not for sale; it is to be received by faith,
with joy and thanksgiving in Christ!

(Exodus 3:14; Hebrews 13:8; 2 Corinthians 1:20-22)

I. THE REJECTED REDEEMER

Judges 11:1-3 -

1) God can, will, and does use the sin of other people to accomplish His good will in us.

(Genesis 50:20-21 and 1 Samuel 17:34-37)

Judges 11:4-11 -

2) In a small but important way, Jephthah, as a rejected redeemer who entrusts himself to God's will, foreshadows Jesus.

(John 1:10-13)

Judges 11:12-28 -

Verses 12-22: Jephthah recounts the BASIC HISTORICAL FACTS.

Verses 23-24: Jephthah responds with BOLD THEOLOGICAL TRUTH.

Verses 25-28: Jephthah rejects the Ammonite's claim BASED ON TIME.

3) History is our friend! Knowing the history of God's faithfulness, God's grace, God's work in and through His people can fill us with hope, boldness, and courage!

(Psalm 145:4, 18-20)

Judges 11:29-33 -

4) Instead of trusting/resting in God's character, nature, and promises, Jephthah makes a disastrous (but common!) mistake by trying to earn and "deserve" God's favor and grace!

(Psalm 51:16-17)

Judges 11:34-40 -

5) Jephthah's foolish vow reminds us that it's never the right thing to "double-down" on sin, to persist in sin. Instead, in view of God's mercy, we can repent and serve God NOT to make Him love us but because, in Christ, He already does!

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

(Romans 12:1)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Can we bribe or manipulate God into doing what we want Him to do? Why or why not?
2. How did God use some hard, difficult circumstances to prepare Jephthah, David, and Joseph? How has God used painful events in your life to prepare you or to accomplish something good in you?
3. In what ways does Jephthah foreshadow Jesus? In what ways does he not?
4. How did Jephthah's knowledge of redemptive history help/benefit him? How should it help us?
5. What are some lessons we should learn about Jephthah's tragic vow?