

## JEPHTHAH'S STORY, GOD'S GLORY

*Your Story, His Glory*

Judges 11

*“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah.”* Hebrews 11:32

The Bible says that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him as he prepared to go into battle. At that moment he made a foolish mistake that would haunt him forever and is the one fact we remember about him today. He vowed that if the Lord would help him win the battle, he would offer to the Lord a burnt offering of the first thing that came through the doors of his house when he returned home from fighting the Ammonites.

(Judges 11:30-31)

No doubt he expected the “first thing” to be an animal of some sort. To his shock and dismay, it turned out to be his daughter, his only child, coming out to welcome him home.

*Distraught, he ripped his clothes and said, “I made an oath to the Lord and cannot break it.”* Judges 11:35

*For two months his virgin daughter spent time in the hills with her friends. At the end of the two months, he did to her as he had vowed. She died a virgin.”* Judges 11:39 NET Bible

And it came on the heels of a vast victory over the Ammonites.  
(Judges 11:32-33)

The vow was unnecessary and dangerous.

The final comment in Judges was, *“In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”*  
Judges 21:25

So here we have the hardest case of all. A gang leader for God, the son of a prostitute, who made a rash vow, wins a mighty victory, apparently sacrifices his own daughter, and shows up in Hebrews 11.

It's hard to get your mind around all of that.

Jephthah, then, teaches us about not only how faith works but also about God's grace.

1. **When we turn to God, He responds with His favor.**
2. **God will not hold our past against us.**
3. **Whenever we trust God's word more than feelings, grace erupts and we become empowered in the ways of God.**

Jephthah thus exemplifies another truth expressed by the author of Hebrews:

*“He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him.”* Hebrews 7:25