

Judges, Sermon #37

Judges 11—introduced to a new judge, Jephthah

Let us pray.

Vs. 1-3a

Apparently, they threatened his life; for he had to flee to Tob, which was a desolate region near Syria—Iraqi—desert (v. 3).

Rejection is no fun at all for sure.

It is painful, tearful, sorrowful, hateful, and frightful.

However, rejection can be **constructive to our character, productive in our principles**, and **instructive in insights** of life if we respond the right way.

Jephthah's rejection period was very important because it was a crucial molding time in his life.

Jephthah is not the only person to be rejected by his family.

His life's pattern is repeated over and over again in Scripture.

Little did Jephthah's brothers realize they were rejecting the future judge of Israel, the future savior and deliverer of Israel.

The same truth held true for Joseph's life.

He was driven away from his family and later promoted by God to be a savior.

Jesus, too—He was rejected by His own.

Psalm 27:10: *“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.”*

Jephthah and Joseph give a clear, resounding message!

No matter what your family background is, God is able to grow you/use you for His glory!

As Christians, we **know** God is the Great Determiner, the Master Architect of our lives.

We know that with God’s forgiveness and grace enablement, we are not a prisoner of the past no matter how desperate it is.

We can go forward with the Lord and for the Lord.

I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me.

God uses Jephthah’s life to show us what He can do with a person who is yielded and faithful—Hebrews 11:32—Hall of God’s Heroes

His past made him better or bitter.

Vs. 3b

Jephthah had become a leader of a band of desperados.

He is the leader of a despised, rejected group.

“Vain men” means “unemployed, bankrupt, empty.”

It refers to idle people looking for something to do.

These men were misfits and rejects of society just like Jephthah.

We see again that people tend to gravitate to others who reflect themselves.

A rebel is drawn toward a rebel; an outcast toward an outcast; the wicked are drawn to the wicked and the righteous to the Godly.

With these men, Jephthah learns leadership skills.

He takes worthless men and molds them into an effective force.

The Ammonites make war with Israel.

Israel has a problem so now what is the solution?

Jephthah's brothers did not want him, but the elders of Gilead needed him.

They send a delegation eighty miles to ask Jephthah to take charge and lead them.

What a change in events!

Vs. 4-5

Jephthah was commanded to leave and now he is called to lead.

He was asked to exit by his family, and now he is asked to excel by his countrymen.

Jephthah did not apply for it, work for it, or negotiate for the position.

God in His own time opened the doors of opportunity for Jephthah to serve Him.

God elevated him to the position of chief

Jephthah has gone from commotion to promotion.

The call to leadership can come at any time.

It is important to be prepared, ready, and willing.

My responsibility in my Christian life is to be involved where I am; to do the will of God
where He has placed me; to learn the lessons He is trying to teach me.

It is God's job to open doors of opportunity.

If a person has an available heart, he will find plenty to do for the Lord.

If we live for Him faithfully in the present, God will concern Himself with our future.

Through the years, note what happened—he became a mighty warrior and a strong
leader of skilled fighters.

Word of his skill as a warrior had spread far and wide, for he became known as “a
mighty man of valor” or “a great, mighty warrior”

Deliverance by Jephthah, the son of a harlot/rejected by his family, who as a man was
chosen by God to deliver his people

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Rough home . . .