

Jephthah and the Anonymous Heroes

Sermon 45 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 11:32-40

I. Jephthah -- Judges 10-11

- A. The Background -- Judges 10:6-14
- B. We Have Sinned – but Deliver Us -- Judges 10:15-16
- C. The Need for a Leader 10:17-11:3
- D. Jephthah Becomes their Leader 11:4-11
- E. Jephthah's Debate with Ammon 11:12-28
- F. The Vow and the Victory 11:29-33
- G. Jephthah's Sacrifice 11:34-40

II. Anonymous, yet Faithful Hebrews 11:33-40

- It is faith that differentiates between the believer the unbeliever.
- It is faith – the faith that God gives -- that makes us strong and gives us the ability to do exploits (simply live the ordinary Christian life).
- It is FAITH that pleases God. And while this faith is MANIFESTED by works, faith IS NOT the same thing as works. .

A. Nine Terse Unrelated Clauses v. 33-34

These are meant to hit us like a SLEDGEHAMMER as we are reminded of the exploits done by those who served the Living God.

B. A Better Resurrection v. 35

The ones tortured and martyred could have escaped their misery.
They *WOULD NOT ACCEPT* deliverance.

“Why?”

Because their only way to accept deliverance from torture and death was to deny the faith.

John Owen – speaking of persecution and perseverance:

“There was never a greater display of human degeneracy ... emperors, kings, judges, priests, not content to simply take away their lives like they would their enemy, have invented all kinds of hellish torture whereby to destroy them... God in his patience endures with much longsuffering ‘the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction’ ... But a little ‘precious faith’ will carry believers victoriously through all trials. What sustained these sufferers in their tortures was ‘that they might obtain a better resurrection. This faith of the resurrection of the dead is the top stone of the whole structure, system and building of religion; ... Without this hope we are of all men most miserable.”

C. More Persecution v. 36-38

“Of whom the world was not worthy.

D. The Full Light of New Covenant Blessing v. 39-40

1. We have a better view of Christ
2. We live in the day of fulfillment
3. We live in a time of a wider outpouring of God’s grace.
4. Don’t ignore the continuity of NT saints with the OT saints

“They should not be made perfect apart from us.”

They were saved the same way we are – by grace through faith.