

I. BIBLE: JEPHTHAH (Judges chapters 10-12)

A. ANOTHER CYCLE: REBELLION ⇒ RETRIBUTION ⇒ REPENTANCE ⇒ RESTORATION
(10:6⇒10:7-9⇒10:10,15,16⇒10:11-12:7; see Ps.78:57; 106:6; see Rom.7:24f; Heb.12:4f; Ps.106,107)

B. JEPHTHA: THE NINTH JUDGE (c.10-12)

1. a man of great humiliation (10:1-3; see 1Sam.22:1f; Eph.2:1f)
2. a man of great wisdom (11:4-11; 12-28; see Ex.31:3; Acts 6:3; 1Cor.12:8; Eph.1:7)
3. a man of great power (11:1; 12:1f; see 11:29f(see 3:10; 6:34; 14:6,etc; 1Sam.11:6; Lk.3:22; 1Jn.2:20))
4. a man of great wickedness (11:30-40; see Mk.6:23f; Acts 23:12,14; ; see Heb.7:23)

II. DOCTRINE: IDOLATROUS PRESUMPTION (11:30f,34f; see Mal.3:6; Heb.13:8)

A. WICKED FAITHFULNESS (11:30-40; see Mk.6:23f; Acts 23:12,14)

1. unlawful vow (11:31 /2K23:10; 11:7; Lev20:2f; Jdgs.10:6f; 11:4f,31(Ex.15:20f; 1Sam.18:6f); Acts23:12,14)
2. lawful vow unlawfully fulfilled (11:34f; see Mk.6:23)

B. VOW: PROMISSORY OATH (11:30,31; see Gen.28:20-22; Num.21:2; 1Sam.1:11(see Jdg.13:5f); 2Sam.15:7f)

C. THE PROPRIETY OF VOWS (Lev.22:21f; see Ex.6:7; Heb.6:13f; Rev.10:5f; e.g., family, church, state, business)

D. THE SANCTITY OF VOWS (Num.30:1f; Dt.23:21-23; Eccl.5:4-6; see Mt.5:33f; Jms.5:12)

E. THE DANGER OF VOWS (Num.6:9f; Dt.23:21b; Prv.20:25; Eccl.5:6; Mal.1:14)

F. THE GRACIOUS REMEDY FOR NEED (Num.6:9f; 30:5,8,12,(15); Lev.27:1f; 1Jn.1:9; see Prov.6:1f; see Gen.22:1f,8f/2Kngs.23:10; 11:7(Lev.20:2f; Jdgs.10:6f; 11:4f); 2Cor.5:21)

G. THE DEADLY POWER OF PRIDE (Jdgs.11:30-40; see Mk.6:23f; Acts 23:12,14; see Gen.22:11f)

III. PRACTICE: HUMBLE YOURSELF (Jdgs.11:30-40; see Jms.4:10; see Ps.32:1f; 1Jn.1:9)

A. MAKE LAWFUL COMMITMENTS AND KEEP THEM LAWFULLY (Mt.5:33f; Gen.2:23(Ex.6:7); see *WCF*,c.22,para.5-7)

B. CONFESS YOUR NEED WHEN YOU FAIL (Prov.6:1f; Lev.27:1f; 1Jn.1:9a)

C. HUMBLY ACCEPT GOD'S PROVISION FOR YOUR NEED (1Jn.1:9b; 2Cor.5:21; see Gen.22:1f vs. Jdg.11:30f; e.g. *The Lord's Supper*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. How is the Judges cycle (rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration) evident in the history of Jephthah?
 - a. What was the rebellion?
 - b. Who was the oppressor?
 - c. Where was the repentance?
 - d. Who was the deliverer?
7. What was there about Jephthah that we should admire? That we should despise?
8. Read our Confession and Testimony, chapter 22, paragraphs 5 through 7. (Consider reading the Scripture references that accompany these paragraphs.)
9. What is a vow?
10. Can or should a Christian make a vow? What vows have you made in your life?
11. Why are vows such serious things?
12. Why are vows so dangerous?
13. What must we do if we have made unlawful vows or if fulfilling them has become sinful?
14. What is the great danger that Jephthah succumbed to? Why did he succumb?
15. Do you make lawful commitments and keep them lawfully?
16. What do you do when you make a sinful commitment? (see Acts 23:12,14)
17. What do you do when fulfilling a commitment would be sinful? (see Mk.6:23)
18. Have you made any vows made besides marriage, membership or ordination vows?
 - a. Have you fulfilled them? If not, have you sought forgiveness?
 - b. Are there things you *should* make vows about? (see WCF, c.22, para.6,7) If so, what are these things?