

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What were the reasons that Jephthah was thrust out by his brethren? Do the reasons go beyond what is written in Judges 11:1-2? Do we today have similar problems with accepting those whom God would select to be leaders? In what ways?
2. What did Jephthah have in common with Joseph, Moses, and David?
3. Why does God often deal with future leaders in such a manner?
4. When did the elders of Gilead turn to Jephthah for help?
5. What losses can we expect if we do not accept those God would choose to lead?
6. What example did Jephthah set that any spiritual leader should follow?
7. What are the responsibilities of members to those in leadership positions?

SUMMARY:

We are living in a time when it seems popular to oppose the leadership of our church. We can see in this lesson how man looks at the outward appearance, while God looks at sincerity of heart and the willingness of the heart to yield. If we are critical of those who minister unto us because they are not dynamic speakers, we will not receive the spiritual food we need for healthy growth.

Our bodies would become fat and lazy if we ate nothing but great quantities of rich delicate food. Spiritually too, we need a certain amount of food that requires some effort on our part to digest.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

August 30, 2015

Third Quarter

AN UNAPPRECIATED LEADER

LESSON TEXT: *Judges 11:1-33*

LESSON SETTING: Jephthah, an unwanted child, is disowned by his brethren, and later asked to lead them against the Ammonites.

TIME: 1161 - 1143 B.C.

- I. HIS LEADERSHIP OPPOSED.** Judges 11:1-3
 - A. Rejected (vs. 2) Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 12:10
 - B. Cast Out (vs. 3) Genesis 26:27; Matthew 8:20
- II. HIS LEADERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGED.** Judges 11:4-11
 - A. Forgiveness Sought (vs. 8) Luke 17:4
 - B. Covenant Made (vs. 9) Judges 10:18; Luke 1:71-74
- III. HIS LEADERSHIP SUCCESSFUL.** Judges 11:12-33
 - A. Depends upon God. (vs. 30) Romans 4:20-21
 - B. Led by God (vs. 32) Psalm 77:20; Romans 8:14
 - C. Strengthened by God (vs. 33) 2 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11:34

GOLDEN TEXT: *JUDGE NOT ACCORDING TO THE APPEARANCE, BUT JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT.* John 7:24

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Judges 13:1-25
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: John 1:6-8

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Days in Canaan

TOPIC: SAMSON, A PROMISED DELIVERER

INTRODUCTION:

Manoah and his wife were old before the promise of a son was given them. But what a promise it was. He was to be a Nazarite, a deliverer of Israel. They surely must have been thrilled at this news.

Manoah was rather timid in believing this great promise and was happy to meet the man himself who had brought the message to his wife. How he must have felt when he saw the man ascend in the flame of the altar. Then he knew he had actually seen and spoken to the angel of the Lord. Fear gripped his heart as he realized more fully all that had taken place and would take place in the future. He and his wife had been accepted as chosen vessels for the Lord. May we also live, so that God may use us as His chosen vessels, and great blessings will be the result.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God, in His providence, always has a man through whom He can bring deliverance to His people.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *THERE SHALL COME OUT OF SION THE DELIVERER, AND SHALL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.*
Romans 11:26

How sad that so many chapters in the lives of God's people Israel had to begin thus: "and the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord." (Judges 13:1) It was because of this evil doing that Israel had to suffer so many afflictions at the hands of their enemies. How often God punished them, and then in love and mercy would again promise, and provide a deliverer. This continued on and on through their generations until finally, "the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy." (2 Chronicles 36:16)

Since it had been proven that no deliverer, even though a Nazarite, could turn the hearts of men from evil, God promised through His prophets that a deliverer out of Zion, would turn the "Israel of God" away from ungodliness. Only the Son of God could do this. Only by His death on the cross, His victory over death in His resurrection could there be true deliverance from sin and evil. This Deliverer now invites us into His service promising to turn the hearts of men from ungodliness.

What will you do with Jesus?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Aug. 31 – Sept. 6

M. *Samson, A Promised Deliverer. Judges 13:1-7
T. *Manoah's Prayer. Judges 13:8-16
W. *The Promise Realized. Judges 13:17-25
T. Samson and the Lion. Judges 14:1-7
F. Samson's Riddle. Judges 14:8-14
S. The Riddle Explained. Judges 14:15-20
S. Putting on the New Man. Ephesians 4:22-32

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