



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 056 - When Your Mouth Is Faster Than Your Brain Judges 11

God's choice of Jephthah to be Israel's judge is interesting. His father was less than a stalwart, upstanding member of society. This is evidenced by the fact Jephthah's mother was a prostitute his father had visited. So the "legitimate" children of his father drove him out and refused to give him a share of his father's inheritance.

- Do you consider yourself an "outcast"? Why?
- Do you think more individuals become outcasts because of their actions or because of the judgment and misunderstanding of others?
- Would you consider Jesus an outcast?

Even though Jesus was not the son of an adulteress or a prostitute, like Jephthah, He was also rejected and cast out by the Israelites who thought of Him as the illegitimate son of Mary and Joseph. The writer to the Hebrews speaks of Jesus being cast out of Jerusalem and crucified on a neighboring hill, "So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood" (Hebrews 13:12).

- What is the significance of Jesus being cast out from the city of God as He takes away the sins of the world and dies in our place on the cross?

At one time Israel's leaders cast Jephthah out, but once the Ammonite threat appeared the Israelite leaders humbled themselves and begged him to be their leader. Jephthah reminded them how they had rejected him, but then agreed to lead them.

- Describe how this same thing happens when some who once rejected Jesus turn to Him for salvation.

Jephthah was filled with the courage of the Holy Spirit, and he knew God's Word extremely well, but then he took a rash, careless vow looking for some extra reassurance that God would grant victory in a just cause.

- Why should Jephthah have known his vow was unnecessary?
- Looking at a deeper level, what is the danger in making a vow where we promise to do something for God if He first does something for us?
- Is it ever proper to make such a vow? When?
- Do you think God expected Jephthah to fulfill the vow he made?

Whether Jephthah actually sacrificed his daughter through a human sacrifice—or dedicated her life to the Lord as a single, childless woman—he took his vow seriously and upheld it.

Consider the picture of God the Father on Good Friday keeping His vow—carefully made and thoughtfully planned out before the creation of the world—to give His Son as a human sacrifice for the sins of the world. And just as Jephthah's daughter consented to her father's vow, Jesus Christ consented to His Father's vow and laid down His life for the salvation of the world.