



Sermon Outline & Notes | April 23, 2017 | Pastor Shane Patrick
Jephthah's Rise | Book of Judges 10:6–11:28

Outline & Notes

Scripture Reading

John 1:11–14—¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Big Idea / Central Proposition

As Christians, we're dependent upon God's grace, God's choosing, and God's truth.

1) Introduction

a) Series Recap—Judges In Perspective

- i) **MOSES** — 1500BC, Leads God's people, Israel, out of 430 years of slavery in Egypt. Moses leads a grumbling Israel to the borders of the land God promised them.
- ii) **Joshua Leads Them in** — Moses dies, and is succeeded by Joshua, who brings God's people into the land (Joshua 1:1–6).
- iii) **Joshua's Warnings** — Obey God, be holy, drive out the Canaanites (Joshua 23:11–13).
- iv) **Joshua Dies** — Israel forgets, the Canaanites remain, and God's people fall into deeper and deeper sin (Judges 2:7–10).

b) **Review of Downward Spiral Cycle**

- i) **PART 1 — SIN** | God's people stray from God, and stumble into sin & idolatry.
- ii) **PART 2 — OPPRESSION** | God gives them over to oppression.
- iii) **PART 3 — REPENTANCE** | God's people cry out to God in distress and repentance.
- iv) **PART 4 — DELIVERANCE** | God raises up a Judge to deliver & save his people from their oppression, and idolatry.
- v) **PART 5 — PEACE** | God's people experience a level of peace in the land as a result of their returning faithfulness to God.

c) Chapters 1–9 Review

- i) 7 of 12 judges in Judges covered so far, plus a few other key characters.
 - (1) Othniel,
 - (2) Ehud,
 - (3) Shamgar,
 - (4) Deborah (and Barak, and Jael),
 - (5) Gideon,
 - (6) Abimelech (*self-selected “king” / not truly a Judge),
 - (7) Tola, and Jair.

2) Judges Chapter 10

- a) **Verse 6:** Israel falls into idolatry of no less than seven groupings of foreign, a spiritual all-time-low for their rebellion against God.
- b) **Verses 7:** God’s Anger is kindled by his peoples sin.
- c) **Verses 7:** A God sells his people into his enemies hands.
- d) **Verse 8:** Israel is crushed by this enemy, for the next 18 years.
- e) **Verse 9:** The attack against Israel expands.

f) Israel’s Two Appeals to God

i) Appeal #1, Judges 10:10 | Confession

- (1) No repentance here, no changed behavior. Simple confession of sin only.

ii) Appeal #2, Judges 10:15–16 Repentance

- (1) Their second appeal is humble, it includes confession but goes much further to putting away other false gods, serving the true God again, and submitting to God’s decision in the matter.
- (2) Concepts concerning repentance:
 - (a) “We’re saved by grace alone, through faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”
 - (b) If one’s faith is real, it will be active.
 - (c) If one’s faith is true, it will overflow into all of life (even if imperfectly so).
 - (d) In other words, there’s a difference between confession and repentance.
- (3) **μετανοέω (repent)** — means, to turn; to change one’s ways. Life change is the overflow of repentance.

iii) Judges 10:16b | God’s Initial Response

- (1) God’s response in essence is, *“and he could bear his people’s misery no longer.*
- (2) God knows they’ll mess up again, but when Israel responds in true repentance he shows them grace upon grace. This says so much about our God, doesn’t it?
 - (a) Quote on God’s gracious response in Judges 16b: *“No matter how persistently they rebelled and sinned against him... God persisted in his grace towards them. The Lord could have written them off, and the angels would not have missed one note of*

their eternal praise. But God's heart was in turmoil over what Israel was suffering, and finally, he said, "That is enough. I won't allow them to endure anymore."—Dr. Gary Inrig

iv) **Big Idea | Part 1.** As Christians, we are utterly dependent upon God's grace.

3) Judges, Chapter 11

a) God's Quiet Response

i) Hidden in Plain Sight

- (1) A Sovereign God
- (2) Responding to a sinful / repenting people
- (3) By delivering his people from oppression
- (4) Through a Spirit-filled deliverer

b) Profiling Jephthah

- i) Rejected son of a prostitute.
- ii) Robbed of Inheritance, forced to leave town.
- iii) Ends up in the Land of Tob.
- iv) Reputation as a "Mighty Warrior."
- v) God's favor is on him, God's Spirit was with him (spoiler).
- vi) Half-brothers who rejected him come calling when they need help.

c) Coincidence...Not Likely

- i) Jephthah happens to be from Gilead (he knows the battlefield well).
- ii) Led a team of warrior types in Tob (he has leadership and military skill).
- iii) Tob is filled with Ammonites (he knows the enemy well).

d) God's Quiet Sovereignty

- i) God's talks directly to Israel at times (through various means), and then in other times his sovereign workings are worked out quietly, without direct response, and in and through the ordinary actions and actions or regular people. Isn't that just how God works with us sometimes?
- ii) For most of us, most of the time, God's workings, his responses to prayer, etc., are worked out over time, through careful discernment, through study, through experience, and with help from other Christians.
- iii) Questions to Consider:
 - (1) Are there places in your lives where there's pain & suffering, that you've refused to entrust to God?
 - (2) Are there places in your life where you're so stuck in short-term realities, that you might be missing the long-term & eternal good God's seeking to work out through your circumstances?
 - (3) Are there corners of your life where you're assuming God is being silent, when the reality of his quiet sovereignty at work is far more likely?

e) **Big Idea | Part 2.** As Christians, we are dependent upon God’s grace, and on his choosing...

f) **Chapter Commentary:**

i) **Verses 1–3.** Family outcast and “mighty warrior,” Jephthah, is introduced.

ii) **Verses 4–11.** Ammonites Attack Israel, and Israel’s leaders recruit Jephthah.

iii) **Verses 12–24**

(1) Jephthah doesn’t jump into battle, but negotiates instead.

(2) Ammonite King claims Israel stole their land.

(3) Jephthah tells King to check his history.

(4) Jephthah tells King the REAL story of God’s story.

(5) He reminds the King that God gave Israel the Amorite land as the spoils of a victory he’d given them in battle.

(6) Jephthah’s argument shifts:

(a) First: right thinking about “God’s Story” (history)

(b) Now: right thinking about “God’s Truth” (theology)

(7) Jephthah argues, If God gave this land to us, are you really claiming it’s rightfully yours? Claim: God’s authority, rule, and sovereignty are determinative. (Job 12:23; Isa. 14:24)

iv) **Verses 25–26.** Arguments from precedent. Regional leaders acknowledge God gave Israel the land.

v) **Verses 27–28.** Jephthah confidently rests his case the he has not sinned against the King, and that God will ultimately decide the matter.

g) **Jephthah’s Strategy in 11:12–28:**

i) A studied understanding of God’s Story (what God has done in history)

ii) A genuine commitment to God’s Truth (what God says is true; theology)

iii) Our Strategy in our Planning, Discerning, and Decision Making

(1) Is this our strategy for our thinking, planning, discerning, and decision making, the same as Jephthah’s?

(2) The Bible regularly compels us toward that end. For a few examples, see: 2 Pet. 3:18, 2 Tim. 2:15, and Ps. 86:11, among many others.

h) **Big Idea | Part 3.** As Christians we are dependent upon God’s grace, God’s choosing, and God’s Truth.

4) **A 6th Downward Spiral Cycle in Judges 10:6-11:28**

a) PART 1 — SIN | Chapter 10:6

b) PART 2 — OPPRESSION | Chapter 10:7–9

c) PART 3 — REPENTANCE | Chapter 10:10–10:16

d) PART 4 — DELIVERANCE | Not yet. Jephthah chosen, but no real deliverance yet.

e) PART 5 — PEACE | TBD

Conclusion

5) Foreshadowing Jesus

- a) **#1) Jephthah** seeks temporary deliverance for God's people. **Jesus** is the perfect and permanent Judge who puts sin away once for all (Heb. 9:26).
- b) **#2) Jephthah** rejected by his own people, and was the son of a prostitute. **Jesus** rejected by his own people, born into the family line of a prostitute, and yet chosen by God to bring salvation to all who call on his name as Lord and Savior.
- c) **#3) Jephthah** revealed God's grace for God's people imperfectly. **Jesus** shows the fullness of God's grace in that he would grant eternal life with him to rejects like you and me.
- d) **#4) Jephthah** committed no sin against the Ammonite King, and, in faith, entrusted the matter to God. **Jesus** is the only one who truly committed no sin, and who perfectly entrusted all things to God (1 Pet. 2:22–23).
- e) **#5) Jephthah** was a “mighty warrior” raised up by God for the deliverance of his people. **Jesus** is our “mighty God” (Isa. 9:6) who was raised to sit at God right hand in authority, where he intercedes for us still (Rom. 8:34).

Discussion Questions & Prayer Points

1. In considering this sixth time in Judges that God's people have fallen into idolatry and other evils, what is your initial response to their ongoing pattern of sin? Do you find yourself more frustrated with them or more full of grace for them? What does your response say about your own relationship with God?
2. In what ways is it encouraging to you to realize that God's quiet sovereignty is at work in ALL things, even in the ordinary and mundane details of life?
3. How does it change your perspective on your relationship with God, and on your life in general, to know that God's choosing, acceptance, and using of any one of us is not dependent upon our performance or any other human criteria?
4. What is your response to the reminder of our dependence upon God's truth? In what ways is God prompting you to grow and take action in this area?

Prayer Points

- Pray that as a church and individually we would all grow in our experience of God's grace, our dependence upon his sovereignty, and our knowledge of his truth.
- Pray that God would give you opportunities to talk with non-Christians in your life about God's grace and forgiveness to us in Christ, and the trustworthy truth of God's Word.

Benediction

John 1:11–13—¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.