

Broken Heroes: A Cautionary Tale

Jephthah

By Rick Bates, June 28, 2020

1. A Reminder ... God's sovereign character is a call to faithfulness .

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and [...] advanced against the Ammonites.

Judges 11:29

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

2. A Caution ... When troubled , be careful with promises to God .

Jephthah made a vow to the Lord: "If you give the Ammonites into my hands, whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph... will be the Lord's." Who should come out to meet him but his daughter, dancing to the sound of tambourines. She was an only child.

Judges 11:30-31, 34

3. A Fact ... Families and marriage matter deeply.

She and her friends went into the hills and wept because she would never marry. After the two months, she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed. And she was a virgin.

Judges 11:38-39

4. A Warning ... Cultural pride lead to undesired devastation .

Whenever a survivor of Ephraim said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead asked him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he replied, "No," they said, "All right, say 'Shibboleth.'" If he said, "Sibboleth," because he could not pronounce the word correctly, they seized and killed him...Judges 12:5-6

In those days Israel had no king. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Are you remaining faithful to God in the midst of your current situation?
 2. Who helps you with any kind of cultural pride that you may need to be careful about?
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