

Jephthah: God's Reject

Judges 9-12

Key Verse: 11:29a

1. How was Abimelek's view of leadership different from Gideon's? (Compare with 8:23.) Why did he appeal to the Shechemites? (9:1-4) What tragedy occurred? (5-6) Who was Jotham (5b), what did his parable mean (7-21), and how did it become true? (22-55) How was God's hand involved? (56-57)
2. What can we learn from the minor judges Tola, Jair, Elon, Ibzan, and Abdon? (10:1-5; 12:8-15) How did Israel's religious pluralism displease God? (10:6-18) How did Israel show practical repentance? (16a) What was the Lord's response? (16b) What can we learn when we are in trouble?
3. Describe Jephthah's background. (11:1) Think about his rejection from his family. (2) Compare and contrast Jephthah's life to that of Abimelek. (3; 9:4) To Jesus? (Isa 53:3) What can we learn about God who uses "rejects" like him? On what condition did Jephthah return to lead Israel? (4-11)
4. What was the Ammonite king's view of history? (12-13) How did Jephthah correct him? (14-28; Dt 2:24-37) What was Jephthah's point? (24, 27)
5. What enabled Jephthah to fight for his people? (29; 2Ti 1:7) What foolish oath did Jephthah make? (30, 31) What did you think he probably expected? What happened? (32-40) How did Jephthah's approach in handling the Ephraimites differ from Gideon's? (12:1-7; 8:1-3)