

LIFE LINKS

Growing Together



(Remember the point is not to get through all the questions, but to facilitate connection between each other and God's word.)

:Life:

On a free night, would you rather go do something or relax at home?

:Bible:

In Judges 11-12, we are introduced to a complex character, Jephthah. His character is as easy to pin down as his name is to spell. He is a union of contrasts, a bandit and a leader, an insider and an outsider, a skillful warrior and an eloquent communicator, a hard negotiator and a ruthless opponent. This man that was once chased away by his family is sought out to lead them when they are faced by the Ammonite army. He accepts the role of leader and begins to deal with the Ammonite threat. After a tragic vow and loss of life you see the true character of Jephthah. He is a calculated opportunist who is very self-interested.

Have you ever seen a someone sacrifice/trade their family in order to achieve success? What did you learn from that situation?

Jephthah sacrifices his daughter due to a vow he makes before God, sadly he didn't consider that human sacrifice is forbidden in Israel. He seems to be very ignorant of the laws of the God he claims to serve. Have you ever been in a situation where you do the wrong thing with good intentions?

(Deeper question: Is this an issue of not knowing enough scripture or not caring about what scripture says?)

The story of Jephthah is tragic one but the real problem is that the covenant people of God have wandered so far away from him. How does this sort of thing happen?

(Deeper question: Having knowledge of scripture is good but how can we move to applying that knowledge?)

Read Scripture:

Matthew 7:24-27

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Jesus refers to putting scripture to work as building your house on a rock. Having a firm foundation is necessary for our life. When storms or hardships roll into our life we can trust in what God has built into our foundation through his word. When we don't put God's word into practice we are vulnerable for a collapse.

How do we make the daily decision to be intentional about putting the words of Jesus to practice in our life?

We can see the collapse Jephthah's life. What safeguards do you have set up for your life?

:Application:

Who is your one? How are you getting involved in their life?

:Prayer Requests:

