

Judges 11-12 Deal, Or No Deal?

3/29/09 - The Exchange

- I. Review - entering salvation phase. The people offer a deal.
- II. 11:1-11
  - A. 11:1-3 Sticks and stones do break bones, and name often hurt.
    1. When God created, what did He use?
    2. John 1:1 In the beginning was the...
    3. Words can heal. Peter and John in Acts 3.
    4. Words can destroy. James 3. Friends, family, spouses.
    5. People of grace are given away by their words. So far, none.
  - B. 11:4-11 Get in their heads and see what's behind what they say.
    1. Putting on a front?
      - a) Jephthah falsely indignant?
      - b) Gideonites falsely repentant?
    2. Lifelong desire fulfilled in Jephthah? Secretly praying for this?
- III. 11:12-28
  - A. It's about the land.
  - B. Jephthah knows his history.
  - C. It's about which God gives what to whom.
  - D. Not popular in political circles, becoming less popular in Jewish/Christian circles to say that God has given that land to Israel.
- IV. 11:29-40
  - A. 11:29 Gathering troops? Like Gideon?
  - B. 11:30-31 Why do this? Context is a tough situation.
    1. Out of fear, to assure that God will do what He already promised to do? Opposite of Gideon.
    2. Out of sincerity, a desire to bless God in return for doing what He already promised to do?
    3. When in the tough spot, drop everything except what God has given you, and seek Him for more. Don't try to make a deal.
    4. People of grace don't make deals, don't offer compromises, they just offer grace.
    5. Grace - getting what you don't deserve. Like trying to give God a present while He is trying to give you one.
    6. The difference between what we offer God and others, and what God offers; the heart behind it.
    7. No response from God on this one.
    8. Interesting and confusing how one act can be done with two opposite motivations; fear, and love.
- V. 12:1-7 Ultimately, Jephthah is in the Hebrews hall of faith.
- VI. 12:8-15 More fun in-between guys.
- VII. Wrap-up
  - A. People of grace are given away by their words.
  - B. People of grace don't make deals, don't offer compromises, they just offer grace.
  - C. Jesus is our example in this. (even in confrontation mode)