

**SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017**  
**THEME – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL**  
**UNIT I – CALLED TO BE STRONG**

**“AND NOW ON CENTER STAGE...JEPHTHAH THE  
OVER-ACHIEVER!”**



**Sunday School Lesson III – June 18, 2017**

**Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III Pastor-Teacher**

**Lesson Text:** Judges 11:1-35

**Motto Texts:** Judges 11:9, “*And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?*”  
Ecclesiastes 5:5, “*Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.*”

**Required Reading:** Judges 11:1-40

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Libronix Electronic Library System; Standard Commentary; “Be Delivered”, “Be Holy”, “Be Counted”, “Be Available” and “Be Equipped” by Dr. Warren Wiersbe; Visualized Bible Notes-Tyndale/Wilmington; Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament

**INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Warren Wiersbe gives us a noteworthy introductory thought that I want to quote: “Life and literature are filled with the ‘Cinderella legend,’ stories about rejected people who were eventually ‘discovered’ and elevated to places of honor and authority. Horatio Alger wrote over 100 boys’ novels that focused on the ‘rags-to-riches’ theme, and he became one of the most influential American writers of the last half of the nineteenth century. Whether it’s Abraham Lincoln going ‘from log cabin to White House’ or Joseph from the prison to the throne of Egypt, the story of the successful ‘underdog’ is one that will always be popular. We like to see losers become winners.

The account of Jephthah, the main character in these chapters, is that kind of a story, except that it doesn’t end with the hero living ‘happily ever after.’ After Jephthah’s great victory over the Ammonites and Philistines, he experienced anything but happiness; and the narrative ends on a tragic note.”

Now, with these thoughts in mind, let us go center stage and meet God’s over-achiever named Jephthah.

**Anticipated Power Points. Jephthah overachieved because:**

- **He was Despised and Rejected. Judges 11:1-3**
- **He became In-Demand and Recognized. Judges 11:4-11**
- **He Sought to make Reconciliation. Judges 11:12-29**
- **He was willing to Sacrifice all for his Request of Victory. Judges 11:30-35**

## LESSON OUTLINE

### **“And now on Center Stage...Jephthah the Over-Achiever”**

#### **I. Jephthah Over-Achieved because...He was Despised and Rejected. Judges 11:1-3**

According to H. L. Willmington, “Born out of wedlock to a prostitute, Jephthah is despised and driven out of his home in Gilead by his half-brothers. He forms a large band of rebels.”

His Gang! Life Application Study Bible Notes, “...Today, both believers and non-believers may drive away those who do not fit the norms dictated by our society, neighborhoods or churches. As in Jephthah’s case, great potential is wasted because of prejudice – a refusal to look beyond ill-conceived stereotypes.”

#### **II. Jephthah Over-Achieved because...He became In-Demand and Recognized. Judges 11:4-11**

“When Gilead is threatened by the Ammonites, the people ask Jephthah to be their commander and ruler, and he accepts.” (H. L. Willmington). Like Jephthah, many are longing to be loved and above all, accepted. He held them to an oath and willingly proceeded. Literally, Jephthah chided the leaders of Gilead to test their integrity. It must have been truly life and death for them to call him, of all people, to lead the country over their enemies.

Note verse 11 speaks of the place Mizpeh, undoubtedly the ancient landmark where Jacob and Laban pledged their loyalty to be at peace with each other. This is the place that Jephthah makes a covenant with the leaders. Remember Genesis 31:48-52.

#### **III. Jephthah Over-Achieved because...He Sought to make Reconciliation. Judges 11:12-29**

According to Willmington,

- “(a). The problem (vv. 12-13): Jephthah learns that the Ammonites are angry because they believe Israel stole land from them.
- (b). The peace attempts (11:14-28). To avoid a battle, Jephthah attempts to explain how the Israelites got the land. The Ammonites, however, are not satisfied...
- (c). The Lord’s Spirit comes upon Jephthah and he leads an army against the Ammonites.”

#### **IV. Jephthah Over-Achieved because...He was Willing to Sacrifice all for his Request of Victory. Judges 11:30-35**

**A. “His vow (11:30-31)” (Read)**

**B. “His victory (11:32-33)” (Read)**

**C. “His vexation (11:34-35)” (Read)**

When Jephthah returned, to his dismay, his one and only daughter met him and he found himself sorely weeping because of his vow. (Read v. 35c). Beloved, the over-achiever has placed himself between “a rock and a hard place.” What shall he do? What should his daughter do? What should we do in understanding this text? Many great Bible expositors disagree on the outcome of this text.

### **CLOSING**

I am closing here by simply saying where I stand. I don’t believe Jephthah sacrificed his daughter as a burnt offering, because every Christian knows that God doesn’t accept human sacrifice, because of the sinful nature of human beings. (Read carefully Romans 3:9-12. Then also read Psalm 14:1-3. When we read Genesis 22:1-18, we see that God does not accept human sacrifices.)

Jesus Christ is the lamb of God, as we find in John 1:29, “*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*” Beloved, whatever happened to Jephthah’s daughter may be debated, but God would not have accepted her as a human sacrifice.

Jephthah was an over-achiever, but Jesus Christ is God’s only acceptable sacrifice. Receive Him and be totally reconciled to God. II Corinthians 5:21, “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*”

---

**Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA**

**Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179**

**Phone: (504) 486-7876**

**Website: [www.thestudyhour.com](http://www.thestudyhour.com)**

**TV Broadcast: WHNO TV 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**



**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**June 25, 2017**

**Judges 13:1-7, 24-25**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**