Lesson 8 Handout: A Deliverer, a Rash Vow, and a Divided People

Judges 11-12

Key verse: “the LORD the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon” (Judges 11:27b, KJV).

Objective: God’s deliverance does not excuse rash words, pride, or division.

Outline

1. Jephthah, an outcast, is asked to lead Gilead (11:1-11).
2. Human _____ does not prevent God from using a person.
3. Before fighting, he speaks _____ to Ammon (11:12-28).
4. The Spirit of the LORD comes upon Jephthah before his vow (11:29).
5. _____ is God’s gift, not the price of a bargain.
6. Jephthah’s vow is reckless and brings grave loss (11:30-40).
7. The daughter’s fate is debated; hold conclusions with _____.
8. The clear warning is that _____ spoken before God are not trivial.
9. Ephraim’s pride and Gilead’s response end in civil bloodshed (12:1-7).
10. _____ can wound God’s people more deeply than an external enemy.
11. _____ speech and vows are not spiritual maturity.
12. Jesus’ sacrifice was willing, holy, and once for all.
13. _____ makes peace among former enemies.

Questions and Notes

1. What elements of Jephthah’s message to Ammon were historically and theologically sound?
2. Why does a successful ministry or victory not validate every choice made by its leader?
3. State one certainty and one uncertainty in interpreting Judges 11:39-40.
4. What step could prevent a current disagreement from becoming sinful division?

Notes:

Further Study

Read Leviticus 18:21; Leviticus 27; Deuteronomy 12:31; Ecclesiastes 5:4-6; Proverbs 15:1; Matthew 5:33-37; Ephesians 2:11-22.