



The Spiritual Keys to Victory

June 18, 2017

Judges 11:4-11 & 29-31

“Jephthah said to them, ‘Didn't you hate me and drive me from my father's house? Why do you come to me now, when you're in trouble?’” (Judges 11:7).

Jephthah's brothers hated him, and they turned the elders of Gilead against him, for they drove him away from their town. Jephthah went to the land of Tob and gathered a small army of adventurers, perhaps outcasts as he himself. Since the Israelites had once again turned from serving the LORD to worshiping idols, God once again removed His protection from them and they began to suffer. If they suffered enough and discovered that without God they were defenseless against all their enemies, perhaps they would repent of their sins and return to the LORD. Finally, after the Ammonites kept defeating them, the elders of Gilead went to Jephthah for help as a last resort. Jephthah rightly asked them why they had waited until they were in trouble before trying to make things right between them and him. They obviously had no concern for Jephthah and only concern for themselves. Jephthah told them he would lead them only if they would make him their commander. And if the LORD gave him victory over their enemies, then they would make him

head over them. They agreed and Jephthah made them promise with the LORD being their witness. If they broke their promise, God would bear witness against them. Though God did not raise up Jephthah to be a judge, Jephthah told the elders that victory depended on God alone. Then, the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah and he defeated their enemies. Today, the followers of Jesus Christ have the Holy Spirit upon and within them; therefore, they can defeat all their spiritual enemies.

Thinking Further

1. Since God did not speak to Jephthah as He did to Gideon, do you think God wanted Jephthah to be a judge? Give a reason for your answer.

2. Jephthah was rejected by his brothers and the elders of Gilead. Can you think of anyone else in the Bible who some people rejected but God chose to do His will?

3. What did Jephthah do right in his relationship with God?

4. What did Jephthah do wrong in his relationship with God?

5. What is one truth you learned from the life of Jephthah?

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