

11/8/09

“JEPHTHAH”

Texts: Judges 10:6-16; 11:29-40; Matthew 5:33-37

Purpose: To realize that God expects His children to be people who speak what is true, always keep our word, and constantly live in His presence.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Judges 10:6-16 and 11:1-8, 29-40. Discuss the sad state of affairs in Israel. How can “God’s people” stoop to such a condition? Are there similarities in our present day?

2. Read 11:29-40

a. What was the key to Jephthah’s military success?

b. Discuss Jephthah’s vow. Should he have made it? Why do you think he did? What was he thinking? What would he have done differently were he able to do it all over?

c. Discuss the character of Jephthah’s daughter.

3. Read Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12

a. What is man’s fundamental problem with respect to our speech?

b. Summarize what Jesus and James are teaching.

4. What important lessons involving speech have you learned from experience? Share them with the group.

5. Can you think of any Proverbs that relate to issues of speech?

6. Give practical ways we can practice God’s presence.

Children’s questions:

1. Why do you think it’s so hard to control our tongues/what we say?

2. Read Matthew 5:33. What does Jesus mean?

3. All of us have heard people use God’s name in swearing. Why is it wrong to use God’s name (or Jesus’ name) unless we are talking to Him or about Him in a proper way?

4. Jephthah made a vow to sacrifice whatever came out of his door if God gave him a victory. What was wrong with doing this? What lessons can you learn from this?