



This week at Magdalen Road we were with Jephthah in Judges 10-11.

We zoomed in on 3 aspects from the account.

- We noted that Israel (again) are chasing after the gods of the surrounding nations. Even though they've never satisfied. Even though they've enslaved them before. And God's judgment of them? To give them what they want.
- We noted too that the Lord prepares Jephthah for his leadership role. He was not the kind of judge we would expect, and yet his life as a bandit-warrior-crime-boss means he's sovereignly prepared for the task at hand. The Lord never wastes our experiences.
- Finally we reflected upon the reality of Jephthah's STUPID vow in 11v30. God has provided him with his Spirit to undertake the task at hand, and yet it's as if he thinks he needs something else. His understanding of God is far more 'pagan-transactional-works-righteousness' than we would like. He has likely absorbed the framework of the surrounding nations.

**Some questions to get your group going.**

- **Do you agree that our idolatry and false worship leads to slavery? Why do you think Israel keep coming back to it? How have you seen this in your own life?**
- **Why is it important that nothing is ever wasted by the Lord? How do we see Jephthah as being prepared? Are there ways that you can see that in your own life?**
- **How is 11v29 an encouragement? Why do you think Jephthah makes the vow in v30? How can we easily slip into similar patterns?**