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YouTube Prayer Link

The price of making rash vows.

Judges 11

11:35 And Jephthah saw her, and he tore his garment, and said, Alas. Thou hast grieved me, my daughter, and hast troubled me. because I have made a wish to Yahweh, and it cannot be reversed.

In this world, every wish comes with a price. When we make a wish to the universe, we often ignore the hidden cost behind the wish, which can be time, effort, or even unforeseen consequences.

The price of making rash vows is not always negative, sometimes it is an opportunity to grow an experience, an opportunity to grow, or an opportunity to change the course of a life. However, this price is often hidden and not revealed until the wish is granted.

Perhaps, we make wishes for love, wealth, or to change the status quo, but behind the fulfillment of these wishes may be sacrifices, more effort, or the loss of other important things.

People are often attracted to making a wish, but often ignore the cost that comes with it. The cost may sometimes be obvious, sometimes subtle and profound, but it is always there.

Therefore, before making a wish, we need to be thoughtful and carefully weigh the pros and cons that come with the wish, as well as the possible hidden costs. Perhaps, when we truly understand the cost of making a wish, we can make more informed choices to ensure that we not only fulfill our wish, but also bear the impact of the cost.

There are passages in the Bible about making a wish that emphasize the solemnity and care with which a wish is made, as well as the importance of fulfilling a promise.

Leviticus 5:4-5: This passage mentions the obligation and responsibility to make a wish, and when a person makes a wish, the promise must be fulfilled. If you forget to keep your promises, you will be held accountable for them.

Numbers 30:2: This part reminds us of the importance of making a wish, especially for women, to be careful about making a wish, because the wish made needs to be fulfilled.

Psalm 50:14: This verse emphasizes the importance of God's vows and promises. When people make wishes, they must fulfill them with honesty and gratitude.

These verses remind us that before making a wish, we should carefully consider what we promise and fulfill our promise in good faith. Making a wish is not only a way to express your wishes, but also a responsibility and commitment to yourself and others.

For Christians, there are several principles and codes of conduct that can be followed for unattainable commitments:

Honesty and humility: When a promise cannot be fulfilled, it is important to face the situation honestly and not disguise it with excuses or false promises. Be honest with yourself and others, and humbly admit what can't be done.

Be kind to others: When you can't make a commitment, you should treat the person you have made an appointment with with respect and kindness. Explain the situation to them sincerely, apologize, and try to find a solution.

Repentance and Xi: It is important to reflect and repent when faced with failure to fulfill commitments. Learn Xi from this experience about your own limitations and how you can better commit to and plan for future actions.

Seeking forgiveness and forgiveness: It is important to seek forgiveness, both from God and from others. In faith, we believe that God will forgive us for our mistakes, and we should be considerate and forgive with each other.

Avoid rash promises: Before making a promise, you should carefully consider your abilities and circumstances. Avoid rash promises, but make sure you can keep your promises.

Christians should seek to face unfulfilled promises with love, sincerity, and humility, while learning from Xi and improving their own behavior. In the face of this situation, it is important to maintain good relationships with others, and also to maintain a relationship with God, seeking guidance and strength to face challenges.

We pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us life and wisdom. We are here to ask You to help us to be prudent and sincere in our commitments.

Ask You to guide us to think carefully and understand our abilities and circumstances before making our promises. Grant us the wisdom not to make rash promises, but to make honest and honest promises, after careful consideration.

Help us understand that every commitment carries with it a responsibility and affects our relationships with others. When we fail to deliver on our promises, please give us the courage and wisdom to face others with honesty, respect, and kindness, and to strive for solutions.

Give us a heart of repentance so that we can Xi learn from our failures and mistakes and become more responsible and prudent people. Ask You to give us the strength to avoid rash promises and instead treat ourselves and others with sincerity and honesty.

May our words and actions reflect Your love and wisdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Judges Chapter 11

Ju. 11:1 Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior. His father was Gilead; his mother was a prostitute.

Ju. 11:2 Gilead's wife also bore him sons, and when they were grown up, they drove Jephthah away. "You are not going to get any inheritance in our family," they said, "because you are the son of another woman."

Ju. 11:3 So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the land of Tob, where a group of adventurers gathered around him and followed him.

Ju. 11:4 Some time later, when the Ammonites made war on Israel, Ju. 11:5 the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

Ju. 11:6 "Come," they said, "be our commander, so we can fight the Ammonites."

Ju. 11:7 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?"

Ju. 11:8 The elders of Gilead said to him, "Nevertheless, we are turning to you now; come with us to fight the Ammonites, and you will be our head over all who live in Gilead."

Ju. 11:9 Jephthah answered, "Suppose you take me back to fight the Ammonites and the LORD gives them to me — will I really be your head?"

Ju. 11:10 The elders of Gilead replied, "The LORD is our witness; we will certainly do as you say."

Ju. 11:11 So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them. And he repeated all his words before the LORD in Mizpah.

Ju. 11:12 Then Jephthah sent messengers to the Ammonite king with the question: "What do you have against us that you have attacked our country?"

Ju. 11:13 The king of the Ammonites answered Jephthah's messengers, "When Israel came up out of Egypt, they took away my land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, all the way to the Jordan. Now give it back peaceably."

Ju. 11:14 Jephthah sent back messengers to the Ammonite king, Ju. 11:15 saying: "This is what Jephthah says: Israel did not take the land of Moab or the land of the Ammonites."

Ju. 11:16 But when they came up out of Egypt, Israel went through the desert to the Red Sea and on to Kadesh.

Ju. 11:17 Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Give us permission to go through your country,' but the king of Edom would not listen. They sent also to the king of Moab, and he refused. So Israel stayed at Kadesh.

Ju. 11:18 "Next they travelled through the desert, skirted the lands of Edom and Moab, passed along the eastern side of the country of Moab, and camped on the other side of the Arnon. They did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was its border.

Ju. 11:19 "Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon, and said to him, 'Let us pass through your country to our own place.'

Ju. 11:20 Sihon, however, did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. He mustered all his men and encamped at Jahaz and fought with Israel.

Ju. 11:21 "Then the LORD, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his men into Israel's hands, and they defeated them. Israel took over all the land of the Amorites who lived in that country,

Ju. 11:22 capturing all of it from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the desert to the Jordan.

Ju. 11:23 "Now since the LORD, the God of Israel, has driven the Amorites out before his people Israel, what right have you to take it over?

Ju. 11:24 Will you not take what your god Chemosh gives you? Likewise, whatever the LORD our God has given us, we will possess.

Ju. 11:25 Are you better than Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever quarrel with Israel or fight with them?

Ju. 11:26 For three hundred years Israel occupied Heshbon, Aroer, the surrounding settlements and all the towns along the Arnon.

Why didn't you retake them during that time?

Ju. 11:27 I have not wronged you, but you are doing me wrong by waging war against me. Let the LORD, the Judge, decide the dispute this day between the Israelites and the Ammonites." Ju.

11:28 The king of Ammon, however, paid no attention to the message Jephthah sent him.

Ju. 11:29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of

Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites.

Ju. 11:30 And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD: "If you give the Ammonites into my hands,

Ju. 11:31 whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the

LORD's, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering.”

Ju. 11:32 Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into his hands.

Ju. 11:33 He devastated twenty towns from Aroer to the vicinity of Minnith, as far as Abel Keramim. Thus Israel subdued Ammon.

Ju. 11:34 When Jephthah returned to his home in Mizpah, who should come out to meet him but his daughter, dancing to the sound of tambourines! She was an only child. Except for her he had neither son nor daughter.

Ju. 11:35 When he saw her, he tore his clothes and cried, “Oh! My daughter! You have made me miserable and wretched, because I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”

Ju. 11:36 “My father,” she replied, “you have given your word to the LORD. Do to me just as you promised, now that the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the Ammonites.

Ju. 11:37 But grant me this one request,” she said. “Give me two months to roam the hills and weep with my friends, because I will never marry.”

Ju. 11:38 “You may go,” he said. And he let her go for two months. She and the girls went into the hills and wept because she would never marry.

Ju. 11:39 After the two months, she returned to her father and he did to her as he had vowed. And she was a virgin. From this comes the Israelite custom

Ju. 11:40 that each year the young women of Israel go out for four days to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 11 in the Christian Bible talks about Jephthah, the ninth judge of Israel, who was a Gileadite and a mighty warrior. Jephthah was initially rejected by his half-brothers and forced to flee his home, but was later called upon by the elders of Gilead to lead them in battle against the Ammonites.

Jephthah agreed to lead the Israelites on the condition that if he was victorious, he would become the permanent leader of Gilead. After defeating the Ammonites, Jephthah returned to his home, but his daughter came out to greet him, and he realized that he had made a vow to God to sacrifice whoever or whatever first came out of his house upon his return.

Despite his grief, Jephthah fulfilled his vow and sacrificed his daughter to God. The chapter also describes how the tribe of Ephraim challenged Jephthah's leadership, leading to a battle in which many Ephraimites were killed. The chapter ends with a brief account of three more minor judges who judged Israel after Jephthah.

The story of Jephthah in Chapter 11 of The Book of Judges is a tragic tale of a leader who made a hasty vow and was forced to pay a terrible price. It also highlights the ongoing conflict and divisions among the tribes of Israel and the need for strong and just leadership to maintain unity and peace.

Here are some key verses in chapter 11 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible:

- "Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute." (Judges 11:1)
- "And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, 'If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.'" (Judges 11:30-31)
- "And Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter." (Judges 11:34-35)
- "And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made." (Judges 11:39)

These verses highlight the story of Jephthah, a mighty warrior who made a vow to God that he would sacrifice whatever came out of his house to meet him if he won the battle against the Ammonites. Tragically, his only daughter was the first to greet him, and he was forced to keep his vow by sacrificing her as a burnt offering to the Lord.

! Judges chapter 11 provides a reflection on the story of Jephthah, highlighting his role as a judge and the challenges he faces in fulfilling his vow to God.

The chapter begins by introducing Jephthah, a valiant warrior who had been rejected by his family and driven away from his homeland. However, when the Ammonites wage war against the Israelites, the elders of Gilead turn to Jephthah for help, recognizing his military prowess.

Jephthah agrees to lead the Israelites in battle against the Ammonites, but before embarking on the campaign, he makes a rash vow to God. He promises that if God gives him victory over the Ammonites, he will offer as a burnt offering the first thing that comes out of his house to greet him upon his return.

God grants Jephthah a resounding victory, and upon his return, the first to greet him is his own daughter, his only child. Jephthah is devastated by the consequences of his vow, but he fulfills it, causing a great lamentation in Israel.

The reflection in Judges chapter 11 raises several themes and questions for consideration. One aspect to reflect upon is the nature of rash vows and the consequences that can arise from making them. Jephthah's vow was made in a moment of zeal and desperation, without fully considering the potential implications. It serves as a reminder to exercise caution and wisdom in making commitments to God.

Additionally, the story highlights the complexity of human character. Jephthah is portrayed as a courageous and capable leader, yet his vow and subsequent actions reveal a flawed understanding of God's will and a lack of discernment. This reflection prompts us to consider the importance of seeking God's guidance and aligning our actions with His wisdom.

Furthermore, the story of Jephthah's daughter raises ethical questions regarding the fulfillment of vows and the value of human life. While Jephthah honored his vow, the tragic outcome underscores the need for discernment and the potential consequences of rash commitments.

Overall, Judges chapter 11 provides a reflection on the themes of rash vows, the complexities of human character, and the ethical implications of fulfilling commitments. It prompts us to consider the importance of wisdom, discernment, and seeking God's guidance in our decision-making. It also encourages us to reflect on the value of human life and the need for a balanced understanding of faith and ethics.