

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Episode 7: Hero or Hellboy?

INTRODUCTION – Disaster and Seeking God

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How much disaster would it take for you to seek God with all your heart?

THE STORY – Jephthah: Hero or Hellboy?

Judges 10:6 – 12:7

PROBING THE PROBLEMS

Did Jephthah _____ his daughter?

Two options –

- 1) No – he fulfilled his vow through devoting his daughter to _____
- _____ in the tabernacle.
Lev.18:21; 20:2-5; Deut. 12:31; 18:10; Exodus 38:8; 1 Sam. 1:28; Luke 2:36,37
- 2) Yes – this shows how deeply rooted he, his family and Israel were in the _____.

Keys to Understanding this Story:

- The context of Judges: How _____ can it get?
Judges 2:16; 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25
- The purpose of God giving his Spirit in the Old Testament: Given for a specific _____
Ex. 31:3; 35:31; Num. 11:17; Judges 3:10; 14:6;
1 Sam. 10:6; 16:13; 1 Chron. 12:18; 28:12; Neh. 9:20
- The focus of Hebrews 11: Contrasting two _____
of people who live by faith Hebrews 11:1,2;32-35a; 35b-38

LOOKING DEEPER – Reading Below The Lines

LIFE LESSON #1:

Let the _____ of God shape your _____, not the _____ of your past.

Jeremiah 29:11

LIFE LESSON #2:

When a tough decision makes you _____ between two true but _____ values, ask, “Which is most _____?”

Matthew 22:37-40

LIFE LESSON #3:

Beware of cultural _____. They can be _____!

1 John 2:15-17

CONCLUSION – A Better Future

A better reason to seek God?

Jeremiah 29:11-13

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one new thing you learned or one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Take time to look up and review the Scripture texts that describe the Spirit being given in the Old Testament (Ex. 31:3; 35:31; Num. 11:17; Judges 3:10; 14:6; 1 Sam. 10:6; 16:13; 1 Chron. 12:18; 28:12; Neh. 9:20). Now compare these passages to Ezekiel 11:19,20; 36:26-27; Joel 2:28,29; Acts 2; Galatians 5:22-25. For the sake of time, different references can be investigated by different break-out groups. a) How would you contrast the purpose of the Spirit in the Old Testament to the Spirit's role in the life of a Christ-follower? b) In light of the Spirit's power in a person's life, how should a Christ-followers' life be radically different from a law-abiding religious person? What do you think are some of the reasons more Christians do not experience this kind of life change? c) What specific things do you think God would have you change in your life this week to more fully open yourself up to the Spirit's presence in your life?

SO WHAT?...

3. Take a few moments (3-4 minutes) to meditate on **Romans 8:12-17** (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.)
4. Pray for each other in light of Ephesians 3:16-19 and what has been shared within the group.

Tim Day @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, August 22 / 19, 2004