

THE RESULTS OF SIN AND THE ROAD TO RESTORATION

Judges 10:6 – 11:11

Introduction: The effects of sin are everywhere. We have just witnessed the conviction of Jerry Sandusky for molestation of several young boys. To him he evidently found enjoyment and pleasure in the act if we can call perversion like that a source of pleasure. That would be pleasure only to someone who has a perverted mind. He will now spend the rest of his life in prison. He will be reminded every day of the “wages of sin” (**Romans 6:23**). Sin has a high price and yet people engage in the activities of sin everyday with little thought of the results that will cause pain and suffering for themselves and for others. We think of the families of the young boys and even the boys who have grown to adulthood and will have lasting effects of the acts of perversion on their lives. We cannot always measure the effects of sin and the result of sin.

This was true with Israel. We find in **Judges 10:6** that Israel “did evil again in the sight of the LORD.” In the verses to follow we find the way God responds to continual sin. Israel had committed sin over and over. This is the sixth time we find these words, “[And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD](#)” (**Judges 10:6**). With this we find the response of God toward the constant rebellion and disobedience of the people. We are told in **Judges 10:7 (KJV)** [And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon.](#) There is a place where God becomes disgusted with sin and responds in anger. The results are clear. First, God sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the children of Ammon. Second, the people begin to experience the effects of what God had done and they were “vexed and oppressed” for eighteen years. What is interesting in **Judges 10:8** is the children of Israel “[...were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is Gilead.](#)” They had not only disobeyed God and turned to other gods, but they had made their residence in the place that was outside the land of promise and subsequently the place of blessing. We find they were “[sore distressed](#)” (**Judges 10:9**).

In this section of the scripture we find a graphic demonstration of the distress and oppression that sin brings into a life. We seldom measure the effects of sin in our life and seldom measure the consequences of sin. The effects here are distress and oppression. The consequences are that they were under constant attack by the children of Ammon. This was one of the children of Lot born to his daughter. This is an example of what the flesh will do when not held under check. The thing we need to notice about this passage is that it is not the most serious consequence of their sin. We find this described in the passage to follow. Let’s look at it.

I. THE DEPARTURE OF THE WATCHCARE OF GOD, Judges 10:10-18. These verses are some of the saddest words found in the Bible. Note **Judges 10:13 (KJV)** [Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more.](#) [Emphasis added.] We cannot underestimate the impact of this statement on the people. It drives them to make an interesting request which we will examine shortly. Please note the effects of sin in a person’s life.

A. THE RESPONSE OF GOD TO HABITUAL SIN, Judges 10:10-14. God tells them in **Judges 10:14 (KJV)** [Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.](#) We can sin away our fellowship with God to the point that He looks the other way and does not

come to our aid. Look at => **Hebrews 10:25-29**. We know the ramifications of this passage. We are aware of the doctrinal application of this to the Tribulation. Yet we still need to note the implications of what God does when we willfully sin over and over. We need to know there is a limit to how we treat the “**Spirit of grace**.” There is a limit to the patience of God with our habitual sin. Do you know what is said in **1 John 5:16 (KJV)** *If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it?* If you read further in **Hebrews 12** you find the story of a man who sought repentance with tears. Look at **Hebrews 12:17 (KJV)** *For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.* This is talking about Esau. Now we know that God will not reject a man or woman who comes to God in repentance because we live in the age of grace. Yet there was a man who could not find a place for reconciliation to God because he rejected the provision God made for him. We can do the same thing today. If we reject the provision God has made there is no place for repentance.

B. THE RESOLUTION BY THE PEOPLE OF THEIR SIN, Judges 10:15-18. This passage is a fascinating response by the people and a dramatic recognition of their condition. Notice that they immediately respond by saying “We have sinned” (**Judges 10:15**). Before there is any reconciliation to God there must be a recognition of our condition. A man who does not consider himself/herself a sinner will not be able to access the grace of God. Do not miss the progression here. They cry out to God. He responds by saying, “*I will deliver you no more*” (**Judges 10:13**). The next step is repentance. Look at **Judges 10:16 (KJV)** *And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the Lord: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.* They turn to the Lord away from their sin. The next step is significant. They gather together and decide there is only one solution to their dilemma. Look at **Judges 10:18 (KJV)** *And the people and princes of Gilead said one to another, What man is he that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.* [Emphasis added.] Is there a man who can help us? This is a question that is not without significance. IS THERE A MAN who can help us? Then note the other matter they recognize in **Judges 10:18** “*he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.*” **HE SHALL BE OUR HEAD.** The people want two things if God is not going to help them. They want a man to help and that man will be their head. That may sound familiar to us but note the development of the narrative. The people are desperate at this point. You and I will never turn to God’s plan for our lives until we get desperate enough to recognize it. When we are desperate enough we will seek other means of a solution to our problems. We have to get to the bottom before we will look up. When you get to the bottom of a hole there is only one way out and that is up.

II. THE DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE TO FIND RELIEF, JUDGES 11:1-11. We find some interesting exchanges between the people in **Judges 10:15-18**. To begin with the people repented of their sin (**verse 15**). This involved putting away the “strange gods” (**Judges 10:16**). They next “...they put away the strange gods

from among them, and serve the Lord” (**Judges 10:16**). Do not miss the statement at the end of **verse 16** “...and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.” We must realize that though we wallow in the grip of our sin, God is still aware of our condition. He is just waiting for us to respond to our condition and turn to His remedy. This is where the people find themselves. They have asked for a man to deliver them. This section of the text shows God’s response to their misery. We are immediately introduced to a man by the name of Jephthah the Gileadite. Now do not forget who these people are, they are Gileadites. Also, note that he is a “mighty man of valour” (**Judges 11:1**). They ask for a man and God supplies the man. Yet they are just as we are today. We look at God’s supply to our need and we suggest that maybe God did not understand our request. There are some interesting characteristics of this man Jephthah that should not be overlooked. God has provided man a remedy for their sin today and He is a man, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now notice with me the same progression of response to the man God provided for Israel and the Man, Christ Jesus, God has provided for us. These are simply parallels. We would not go so far as to say that Jephthah was a *type of Christ* but we can see some interesting parallels. Notice with me the man God provided for them.

A. THE MAN WAS REJECTED, Judges 11:2. When God begins to work in our lives we often respond by saying, “That is not what I really wanted.” This is what Israel is saying to God. They think that there are certain qualifications that they want and when the man God supplies does not meet those qualifications they reject him. Notice why they rejected him. He was their brother, he was one of them yet their response was similar to another. It says in **Judges 11:1**, “...he was the son of an harlot...” He had a “strange birth.” They “thrust him out.” Was this not what happened to the Lord Jesus Christ? Is this not said in **John 1:11 (KJV) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.** Notice **Mark 8:31 (KJV) And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.** [Emphasis added.] **Luke 17:25 (KJV) But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.** This could be said of the current generation in 2012. Man has rejected the MAN God has provided.

B. THE MAN RECEIVED VAIN MEN, Judges 11:3. This is a telling condition of the man Jephthah. He left and went to the land of Tob. The place is evidently somewhere East of Gilead. He went out and “...gathered vain men...” to himself (**Judges 11:3**). Was not our Lord Jesus Christ accused of receiving sinners? **Luke 15:2 (KJV) And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.** We see here a similar response by the people of Gilead. We can be thankful that Jesus was attracted to sinners. We just need to be attracted to Him.

III. THE DESPERATION OF THE PEOPLE, Judges 11:4-11. When the battle became hard the elders of Israel decided that they needed some help and they sought THE MAN who had come forth as a provision of God. Even Jephthah suggests that their motive is out of distress. Look at **Judges 11:7 (KJV) And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?**

They hated the MAN because he did not meet their qualifications. Yet their desperation and distress brought them to the place where they sought the provision made by God. It is not accident that this man showed up at this time in the history of Israel. God was making a point that would have some ramifications historically and we might say that “the only thing that man learns for history is that he learns nothing from history.” Not look at the two things they request of Jephthah.

A. THEY SOUGHT A CAPTAIN, Judges 11:6. There was a recognition that they were in over their heads in trying to battle the Ammonites. They knew they were not equipped to fight the battle in a way that Jephthah could help them. There was a recognition of their folly in rejecting him. When we come to the end of our folly we will usually turn to the right source of our deliverance or will we. The tragedy today is that most do not want God’s remedy for their condition. The people of Israel come to the place where they acknowledge they need some help and since they could not do the job themselves they must turn to the one that was provided for them. Many are not like that. When they find themselves over their head they usually turn to something else. They turn to a religion that is filled with ritual that has an empty hollow result. They even turn to drugs or alcohol or some other remedy that gives them only temporary relief and usually drives them deeper into their distress and desperation. Only when we are willing to accept God’s solution to our predicament will they find the relief they desire. Is not Jesus Christ called “captain?” Look at **Hebrews 2:9-11 (KJV)** ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. ¹⁰ For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, **to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.** ¹¹ For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: **for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.** [Emphasis added.] Do you know the one who is to be made CAPTAIN of your salvation? We cannot escape the provision God has made for us in the Lord Jesus Christ. Will He be your captain?

B. THEY SOUGHT SOMEONE TO BE HEAD, Judges 11:8-11. This is an fascinating development in the text. Look at **Judges 11:8 (KJV)** *And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.* [Emphasis added.] It not a coincidence that this is in the text. We are dealing with people who are in a desperate condition. They are in distress and in need of deliverance. They come to the place where they are willing to allow this one whom they had rejected to now be their head. Have you ever noticed that God has made a provision for the remedy of our sin in one who is to be our head? Did you know that Jesus Christ is called the “Head of the Church?” Notice **Ephesians 1:22 (KJV)** *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.* **Colossians 1:18 (KJV)** *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.* [Emphasis added.] Do not overlook this last statement. We must consider Jephthah’s response in

Judges 11:9 (KJV) And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the Lord deliver them before me, **shall I be your head?** [Emphasis added.] The question presented to the men of Gilead is clear. **SHALL I BE YOUR HEAD?** His inquiry is very timely. This recognizes the fickle nature of man. He wants relief only temporarily. Just long enough for the storm to subside. Jephthah had the wisdom to say to the people, “Are you sure this is what you want?” That is the same condition we find men today. They just want relief from their dilemma and not a solution to their need.

Conclusion: Are you desperate enough with your condition to seek a remedy and not just a quick fix? There is a difference. A remedy is a cure. A quick fix will not last. The only remedy to our sin is the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He became “sin for us” that we might be made “the righteousness of God in Him.” You see the only solution and remedy for our sin problem is to turn to the “captain of our salvation” and make Him our head. Are you willing to make that step of faith and receive Him? That is the solution.