



Jepthah

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Jepthah

1. The villain
2. The vow
3. Gospel values

⁶ Again the Israelites did evil in
the eyes of the Lord.

—Judges 10:6

...And because the Israelites forsook the Lord and no longer served him,
7 he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites,

—Judges 10:6-7

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

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."

³ So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the land of Tob, where a gang of scoundrels gathered around him and followed him.

—Judges 11:1-3

³² Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites, and the Lord gave them into his hands.

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

—Judges 11:32-33



God is more concerned with who we
are becoming than with our resume.



No part of our past is wasted with God.





God can use anyone.

³⁰ And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord: “If you give the Ammonites into my hands,

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.”

³² Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites, and the Lord gave them into his hands.

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

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

35 When he saw her, he tore his clothes and cried, “Oh no, my daughter! You have brought me down and I am devastated. I have made a vow to the Lord that I cannot break.”

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.

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.”

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

³⁹ After the two months, she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed. And she was a virgin.

—Judges 11:30-39

The Vow

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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.” —Judges 11:36-37

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—Judges 11:38-39

29 Then the Spirit of the Lord came
on Jephthah...

—Judges 3:29a

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.”

—Judges 3:27

³¹ You must not worship the Lord your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

—Deuteronomy 12:31

What Happened To Jephthah?

1. He was shaped much more by his culture, than he was by the Word of God.

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2. He did not trust God's goodness toward him.

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—Judges 11:34-35

Applications

1. We too are shaped much more by our culture, than by the Word of God.

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Ask: What blindspots do I have?

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2. Our perception of God needs to be healed.

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Confess your sin to a God of Grace.

¹⁶ Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the Lord. ***And he could bear Israel's misery no longer.***

—Judges 10:16

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

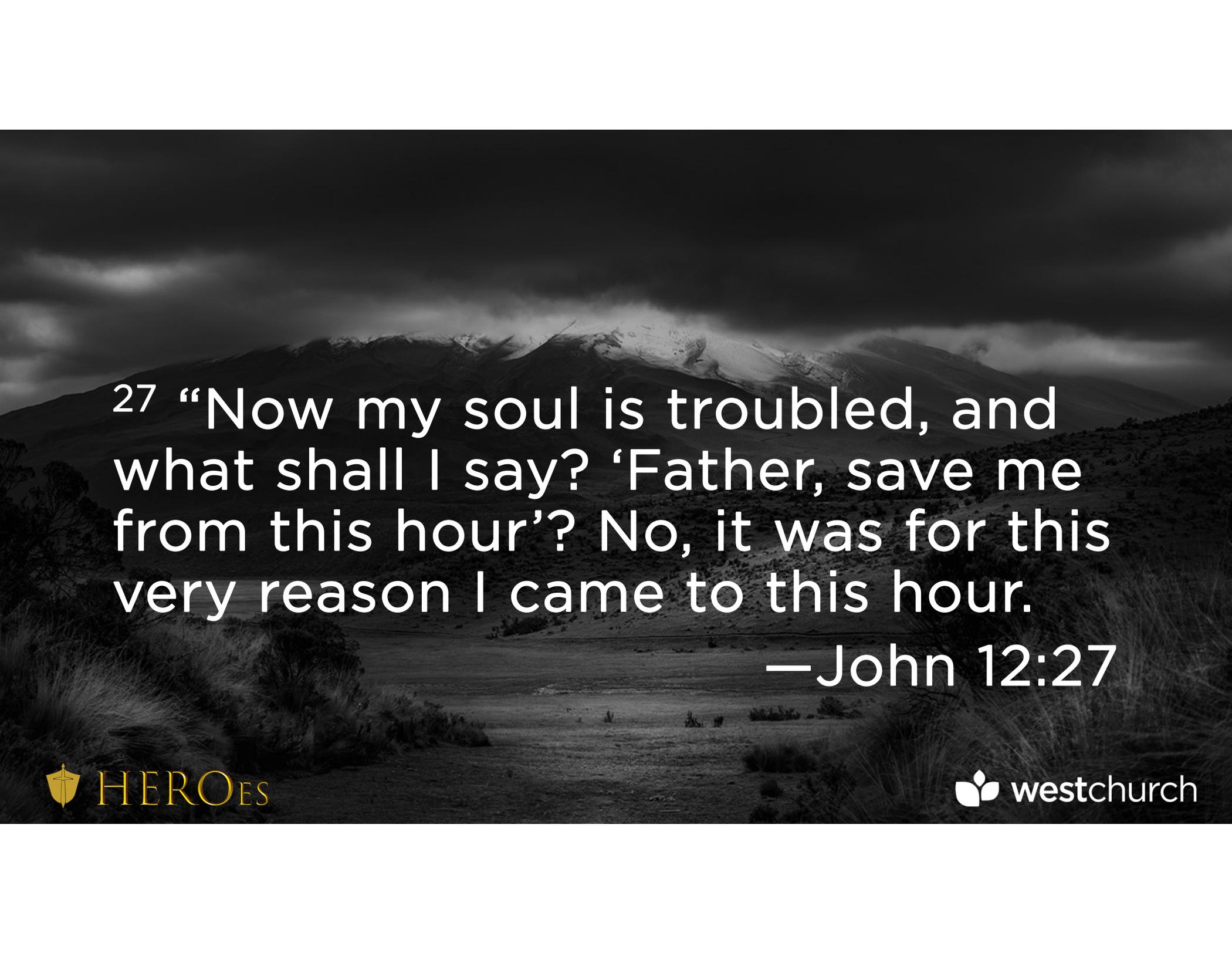
—1 Peter 1:18-19

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and **Jephthah**, about David and Samuel and the prophets,

—Hebrews 11:32

³⁶ “My father,” she replied, “you
have given your word to the Lord.
Do to me just as you promised...

—Judges 11:36



27 “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

—John 12:27

**17 My sacrifice, O God,
is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.**

—Psalm 51:17



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