# UNLIKELY HEROES #5 JEPHTHAH: A MAN OF UNREFINED FAITH

# "Unlikely heroes are those whose faith outshines the unrefined and unfinished parts of their lives.

# Judges 11:1-3 (KJV 1900)

**1** Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

**2** And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.

**3** Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

# **BIO FOR JEPHTHAH:**

- 1. Parents: Father was Gilead
- 2. Spouse: Unknown
- 3. Offspring: One daughter
- 4. Nationality: Israelite of the tribe of Manasseh (Gileadite)
- 5. Occupation: Judged Israel for 6 years
- 6. Scriptural Setting: Judges 11-12

### **INTERESTING FACTS:**

- 1. He was born of a prostitute and rejected by his family.
- 2. He was a man of notable military prowess and called a "mighty man of valor"
- 3. He is best known for making and keeping a very difficult vow to the Lord.

### NOTABLE EVENTS IN HIS LIFE:

- 1. Judges 11:2-3 He is rejected by his family.
- 2. Judges 11:3 He dwells in the wilderness and becomes a mighty warrior.
- 3. Joshua 11:4-5 His family asks for his help in fighting against the Ammonites.
- 4. Judges 11:29-31 He makes an infamous vow to the Lord.
- 5. Judges 11:32-33 He defeats the Ammonites.
- 6. Judges 12:1-6 He fights against and defeats the Ephraimites
- 7. Judges 12:7 He dies after judging Israel just six years.

### NOTABLE QUOTES:

### Judges 11:23-24 (KJV 1900)

**23** So now the LORD God of Israel hath dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and shouldest thou possess it?

**24** Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess.

#### NOTABLE NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES:

**Hebrews 11:32** - And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

#### TAKE HOME STUDY QUESTIONS:

- 1. What were some of Jephthah's character flaws and how did it affect his life?
- 2. What are some of the virtues present in Jephthah?
- 3. Why do you suppose Jephthah made such a foolish vow (Judges 11:29-31)?
- 4. Read Judges 11:6-11. Do you see any areas of insecurity in Jephthah? What role do you think insecurity may have had in him making his infamous vow?
- 5. Read Judges 11:12-22. How do you think Jephthah's knowledge of the law and history of Israel affect his faith and conviction?
- 6. Do you think Jephthah's vow was the reason he was victorious? Why or why not?
- 7. Why do you think God chose to include Jephthah in the "Faith Hall of Fame"?

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**