

Review Questions

Why do you think Jephthah made his vow?

What was wrong with his vow?

What is the proper reason to make a vow to God?

Why did God give fathers and husbands authority over the vows made by their daughters and wives? What does this teach us about him?

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#38 in Series] (Numbers 26–36) *A Heart Turned Towards the Inheritance: Part 8, How Jesus Thwarts Our Foolish Vows* – Numbers 30

Sermon Outline – March 13, 2016

Children's Sermon: Have You Ever Made God a Promise?

Judges 11:30–31

³⁰ And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, ³¹ 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."

Why do you think Jephthah made this vow?

What was wrong with this vow?

- It was made without thinking it through
- Should we try to trade things for God's help?

Notes:

Background Definitions

- What is a Vow? (e.g. Marriage Vow, Sworn Testimony)
"Do you solemnly **swear** that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"
- What kinds of "Vows to the LORD" are in view here?
 - An Oath of Abstinence: e.g. Nazirite Vow (cf. **Num. 6:2**)
 - Thanks, Repentance, Direction...
 - A Conditional Oath: Thanks
 - Dedications (cf. **1 Sam. 1:11** – Hannah)
- What would a person do about a rash vow if he did not have a covenant head to nullify it? (cf. **Lev. 5:4-6** – Sin offering)

Key Idea #1 (of 2)

Vows to the LORD are meant to be an expression of our grateful, wholehearted dependence on God. Therefore, keep the vow you make to the LORD and don't drag your feet.

Overview of Numbers 30

- Both Men and Women Could Make Vows to the LORD
- Vows Should Be Kept without Delay
- A Woman Under Her Father's/Husband's Authority

Key Idea #2

(From Righteousness to the Gospel)

The covenant head of a household could rescue his daughter/wife from a rash vow.

Keep Your Vows to the LORD!

² *If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.*

Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-5

² *Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore, let your words be few. ... ⁴ When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for *he has no pleasure in fools.* Pay what you vow. ⁵ *It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.**

Acts 5:3-4 (cf. 2 Corinthians 9:7)

³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**”

Key Observation

There is a big difference between being thankful and wishing to appear thankful.

From Righteousness to the Gospel

A Girl in Her Father's House (3-5)

⁵ But if her father opposes her on the day that he hears of it, no vow of hers, no pledge by which she has bound herself shall stand. ***And the Lord will forgive her,*** because her father opposed her.

She Makes a Vow & Then Marries (6-8)

⁸ But if, on the day that her husband comes to hear of it, he opposes her, then he makes void her vow that was on her, and the thoughtless utterance of her lips by which she bound herself. ***And the Lord will forgive her.***

A Widow or a Divorced Woman (9; **Lev. 5:4-6** - Sin offering) “and he will be forgiven” - Leviticus 4:31, 35; 5:10, 13

A Women in Her Husband's House (10-5)

¹² But if her husband makes them null and void on the day that he hears them, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows or concerning her pledge of herself shall not stand. Her husband has made them void, and ***the Lord will forgive her.*** ¹³ Any vow and any binding oath to afflict herself, her husband may establish, or her husband may make void.

Inescapable Headship

⁴ and her father hears of her vow and of her pledge by which she has bound herself ***and says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand...*** ⁵ But if her father opposes her on the day that he hears of it...

⁷ and her husband hears of it ***and says nothing to her*** on the day that he hears, ***then her vows shall stand...*** ⁸ But if, on the day that her husband comes to hear of it, he opposes her... (vs. 11, 12)

¹⁵ ***But if he makes them null and void after he has heard of them,*** then ***he shall bear her iniquity.***”

God is Our Father & Jesus is Our Husband (Cf. Acts 1:7)

Key Idea

We need to learn the difference between a foolish, hasty vow and a God honoring vow that brings him glory. But thanks be to God our Father and Jesus our Husband, none of our foolish vows will be aloud to stand!

Application Points:

- ✓ Repent of Hasty, Foolish Vows
(The, “**Is this enough...**” or, “**I’m really serious now...**” vows)
- ✓ Jesus Our Loving Husband will not Let Our Foolish Vows Stand!
- ✓ Learn to Make God Honoring Vows to the LORD
(The “**paying grateful tribute to Jesus the king of kings**” kind of vows)