



REAL LIFE CHURCH

Helping people know and become like Jesus.

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat - Sunday Oct 31 at the new building on Grand Ave from 5:30-7:30. Come decorate your trunk and help us roll out the candy carpet to all the boys and girls.

Go to www.RLCPullman.com/lifer-kids to sign up

Join a Home Group!

Looking to connect with Christ and others? If you answered "Yes", then a Home Group is the perfect opportunity for you! We have several different types of groups including Mixed Home Groups for singles and couples, Women's Groups, and Men's Groups. Home Groups provide an ideal place to make friends, grow in your relationship with Jesus and share life with others. Finding a Home Group has never been easier - Simply fill out your connection card and turn it in or email thad@rlcpullman.com to let us know you're ready to get connected.

Great Marriages Don't Just Happen!

SAVE THE DATE - Nov 5-7 in Coeur d'Alene ID. for the Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway. Register at www.weekendtoremember.com and use RLMPullman as your code to get \$100 off!

College Halloween Bunco

For all college age people. Get in costume and join us for an active, crazy, high energy bunco tournament. There will be great prizes and giveaways. Co-hosted with Young Life College and Navigators. This Friday night 7 pm at the new Real Life Church Building - 1234 S. Grand Ave.

Ways To Give



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Text "GIVE" to
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588 SE Bishop Blvd
Suite F, Pullman WA

UNLIKELY HEROES

A STUDY THROUGH JUDGES

Jephthah - The Undeserving Hero?

Lessons not role models.

Plenty of lessons to be found in this story of Jephthah.

Two recurring themes:

- 1) Compromising to the culture around you leads to terrible decisions and great tragedy.
- 2) Knowing about God and believing in God not the same as knowing God.

If we don't know Him in relationship, we will compromise.

Most disturbing thing about Judges/Jephthah in particular, is we are not as far removed from the culture of Judges as we might first think.

Every time Israel worshipped the idols of a nation, that nation ended up oppressing them.
Idolatry leads to enslavement/oppression.

God "sold them" into the hands of their enemies/idols.

Sold = new owner.

The judgement for idolatry is idolatry.

Idolatry: We tend to limit to openly worshipping images or statues etc.

Idolatry is anything that takes the place of God in our lives:

- Your God is the one person or thing that you care the most about.
- Your God is the one person or thing that you give the most time and attention to.
- Your God is the one person or thing that you depend on to make your life full.
- Your God is the one person or thing that you would rather die than live without.

It's either Jesus or something else.

Idols of our culture: Wealth, Success, Career, Pleasure, Self.

When we depend on the things we idolize, then they oppress us.

John 10:10-14 New International Version

- Do we cry out to God only when we want help, not willing to put away the things that take us away from a relationship with Him? Not willing to give up allegiance to cultural idols.

Judges 10:15-16 New International Version

- They repented and cried out and got rid of all the foreign gods among them.
- Sincere repentance, not just to rescue but to change allegiance.

Judges 11:1-3 New International Version

- Who God chooses? Why Jephthah?
- Not based on merit but to demonstrate His Grace.

Judges 11:4-8 New International Version

- They implore Jeph to come back and rescue them. "Jephthah said to them, "Didn't you hate me and drive me from my father's house? Why do you come to me now, when you're in trouble?"
- Notice anything here? Same as their cry to God.
- Principle: You cannot have God's rescue without accepting His rule.

Judges 11:29-39 New International Version

Duet: 12:29-31 New International Version

Do we worship our God in the way the world worships their god?

If Jephthah really knew God and His law, he would never have made that vow.

Sacrifice that God asks of us: **Romans 12:1**

How does Idolatry Creep in?

A) When faith becomes reduced to: What we believe about God vs. a relationship with God.

Faith as verb not a noun. We demonstrate our faith with our feet.

Abraham believed/trusted/obeyed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Know His Word. Know HIM. That relationship will guard you.

B) Compromise - Wanting to serve 2 gods

Romans 12:1-2 The Message Translation

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Conclusions:

- Quit searching for redeeming value – It's all about His grace.
- I don't understand the depth of God's grace and mercy. If I think I do, I probably don't
- The only thing He asks of us, is to trust Him. Trust His story for our lives.
- Believe enough to be in relationship

Questions:

- 1) What competes for your allegiance to God? The idols of our culture you are susceptible to?
- 2) Is there anything in Jephthah that you can relate to?
- 3) What are ways you can keep from compromising in your walk with Jesus?

Home Group Notes

Pray: It is always good by having someone begin group with prayer and invite the Spirit to join in on your group. (It may help to ask someone else ahead of time, some people like to prepare.)

Intro: This week lets start with an activity (completely optional). Briefly recap the story of Jephthah with your group, go more indepth if some people weren't there. Then give everyone some time to draw the point of the story that stuck out to them most. You may need to provide drawing materials, so prepare that beforehand. Stick figures are totally acceptable. Visuals often enage our memory more effectively, plus you might find out who in your group is more artistic. Then share with each other your drawing and why that part was significant to you.

Questions: This story has an important lesson we shouldn't miss. That it is not just important WHO we worship, but also HOW we worship and honor God. Jephthah worships God (Yahweh), yet his worship looks like how the rest of the world around him honors their gods. Definetly a tough story to understand, but plenty of lessons we can learn from.

- Why do you think Jephthah felt it necessary to make this vow with God?
- In your opinion, was it faithful to God to fulfill his vow or should he have broken it? Why?
- Have you ever made a vow or promise to God? What was it? How did it work out?
- Are promises or vows bad? Should we still make vows? If so, then when/how?
- Jephthah ends up in the 'Hall of Faith' (Hebrews 11), do you think he belongs there? Why or why not?

Pray Again: You can never pray too much, but this is a good time to ask if there are anything the group can be praying for. Leaders, be sure to take some notes and pray for your group throughout the week. Don't forget to follow up with each other when you see God working and answering prayers.