

Power and Victory
Judges 11:1-11, 29-36; 12:1-7

Review:

1. We often put our trust in leaders or even try to manipulate God just so we can get what we want.
2. Trying to force God's hand to get our way is both costly and pointless, because Christ has already done everything to restore us to a right relationship with God.
3. Christ gives His Spirit to all who trust in Him, and the Holy Spirit gives us victory over sin and death.

Reflect:

1. Do you ever try to bargain with God, relying on obedience in one part of your life to assuage the guilt of other sins? How does the story of Jephthah change your perspective on such attempts?
2. Think about some people or things in which you trusted that let you down. What were the consequences you experienced from not trusting in the Lord?

Go Further: Read Judges 19-20

1. What does 19:1 say about the political situation in Israel?
2. A concubine is a woman who is married but doesn't have all the rights and privileges of a wife. What does 19:2 say the Levite's concubine did?
3. When the man went to retrieve his concubine, what reason does he give in 19:12 for not staying the night in Jerusalem? Where did he spend the night instead?
4. Why was the Levite prepared to spend the night in the city square in 19:15?
5. According to 19:20 and 21, what did an old man do for the Levite and those who were with him?
6. According to 19:22, what did the men of the city want to do?
7. According to 19:25, who did the Levite give the men in order to protect himself? What did the men do to her?
8. According to 19:29, what did the Levite do with his concubine's body after he took her home?
9. According to 20:1-2, who gathered for a council?
10. According to 20:12-13, what did the tribes of Israel demand? How did the tribe of Benjamin respond to these demands?
11. How many Benjamites went out to fight? How many Israelites were opposed to them?
12. According to 20:21, what happened on the first day of the battle?
13. According to 20:25, what happened on the second day of the battle?
14. What change in tactics did the Israelites make according to 20:29?
15. What was the result of the third day of the battle, according to 20:34-35?
16. After the battle was over, what happened to the Benjamite soldiers who tried to flee?
17. According to 20:47, how many Benjamite soldiers remained alive?

Summary and Application:

1. These chapters pull no punches in explaining just how terrible the consequences of sin can be. Can you think of a time when something you did that was wrong ended up causing you big problems?
2. "There's no such thing as an insignificant sin." Given what happened in today's passage, is this quote right or wrong? Why or why not?