

From Triumph to Tragedy 11:30-12:7

Tragic zeal: Words that shouldn't have been spoken. 11:30-40

- Vows weren't uncommon (Jonah 2:9, I Sam. 1:11, Num. 21:3), but they were to be taken seriously, Dt. 23:21,23, Num. 30:2, Ecc. 5:4.
- What was problematic with Jephthah's vow?
- What did Jephthah do? 1) sacrifice daughter, 2) isolate daughter in a life of celibacy, 3) celibate service at the tabernacle
- Consider 10:13,14,29, I Sam. 14. Why didn't God intervene?

Tragic pride: A password that couldn't be spoken. 12:1-7

- The threat to burn down Jephthah's house recalls Jephthah's vow. How might the taunt (*fugitives*) also infuriate Jephthah? Jephthah is not nearly as diplomatic as earlier or as Gideon was.
- What do Ephraim's proud words here and in 8:1-3 reveal?

Contrast this event for Ephraim with 3:27-29 and 7:24,25.

Some verses that can help us avoid tragic and costly verbal blunders:
Prov. 18:21, 29:20, Matt. 5:33,37, 12:36, Js. 1:19, 3:5-12, 5:12

