

Remember the Great Works of God – Rejected on Earth. Accepted in Heaven.

– Judges 12:1-7

Story of G. Campbell Morgan

<https://ingrace.us/september-20th-rejection-why-this-terrible-thing-can-happen-to-a-wonderful-person-like-you/>

Comparisons: Gideon and Jephthah

1. Both start out well
2. But each takes a decided turn for the worse
3. Resulting in a violent legacy

Rejection can manifest itself in many ways. The most common ways are:

1. Neglect and
2. Not being taken seriously.

1. Neglect (Judges 12:1)

- Gideon (Judges 8:1) was challenged by the Ephraimites, but he smooth-talked himself out of a can of worms.
- Ephraimites can't handle neglect of not being called to fight against the Ammonites
- They may feel left out, not important
- This kind of neglect can easily breed hatred and anger that can be detrimental.
- It has the capacity to cost death. It's very lethal.
- Although the Ephraimites are not the biggest tribe, are certainly strong-willed and bossy.
- Think of a time from childhood till now that you were being neglected, how did you feel?
- How about at home, work, church, among friends, whether it's intentional or unintentional what was your reaction?
- For example, family fun didn't include you; work lunch forgot to call you; church business didn't seek your advice, etc...
- The hatred from neglect can bring such destructive power
- Rejected on earth!

2. Not being taken seriously (Judges 12:2, 3)

- Context – The war has won. Jephthah was tired. After the battle, supposedly, celebration, happy times
- The Ephraimites didn't come to help, and now squaring accounts
- Jephthah felt that he was not taken seriously
- As a leader, Jephthah might also feel that he was not being accepted
- He became angry
- In addition to the family tragedy, devastation after losing her daughter due to his own careless vow and faulty personality

- Jephthah gave up his daughter and was willing to give up his own life in order to give his best effort to win the war
- What could trigger Jephthah maybe because the Ephraimites said would burn down his house over his head
- After all that Jephthah had sacrificed.
- If you are Jephthah, how would you feel?
- Have you been offering so much but no one recognizes you or your effort?
- How about serving at the church? When people criticized your effort, how do you feel?
- Or at your work, you faithfully put your company first, but people mock you, laugh at you, make fun of you, can you peacefully handle or you are like Jephthah angry and indignant?
- If we have the power like Jephthah, we may react like he did because we are all sinners.
- Rejected on earth!

3. Result in Violent Legacy (Judges 12:4-6)

- Ephraimites was on the west side of Jordon
- Jephthah and the Gileadites were on the east side of Jordon
- Jephthah and his people guarded the Jordon
- Whenever someone passed through, they would ask the person are you Ephraimites?
- If the person said no. The person would require to do an accent testing by saying 'Shibboleth.'
- If the person said, "Sibboleth," then, the person would be executed there.
- 42, 000 Ephraimites were killed.
- The hatred came from neglect and not being taken seriously were very destructive.
- Rejected on earth!

4. No Peace on the land (Judges 12:7)

- The judges before have a formula:
- "XX" led Israel a number of years. The land has peace for "YY" years.
- For example, Judges 8:28
- ²⁸ Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace forty years.
- Jephthah did not accomplish that.
- He did not give the land peace.
- The purpose of a A judge is not only to deal with external threats but to help God's people to experience God once again by solving the sin problem.

5. Jesus was being Rejected on earth, so we can be Accepted in Heaven.

- Think about the time Jesus was on the cross
- People hurled insults at him, neglected him and not taken him seriously
- But Jesus said forgive them for they do not know what they were doing.
- God being neglected all the time: people worship Baal; people do not take the ten commandments seriously;

- Jesus was being neglected so that we can be accepted. Don't give up and don't let hatred rule over you.
- Live a life of compassion, with God, it's possible.