



REAL HEROES FOR DARK DAYS

A STUDY OF JUDGES

#8: PRAY BEFORE YOU SPEAK JUDGES 10-11

JIM HINTON

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF MY WORDS

1. A culture of lies and liars:

- About 60% of people 18 and older are incapable of having a conversation without lying once every ten minutes
- On average, adults tell three lies every ten minutes
- 86% of lies are told to parents
- Most people (about 75%) tell zero to two lies per day.
- Men lie 6 times a day on average, while women lie 3 times a day on average*

2. Scriptures:

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.
Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
Matthew 12:37 (ESV)

A man who makes a vow to the LORD or makes a pledge under oath must never break it.
He must do exactly what he said he would do.

Numbers 30:2

*Lying Statistics & Facts: How Often Do People at crossrivertherapy.com; 30 Lying Statistics & Facts: How Often Do People Lie, gold-enstepsaba.com; How often do people lie? – [Currents uwlax.edu](http://Currents.uwlax.edu)

II. JEPHTHAH: A GREAT WARRIOR WHO MADE A FOOLISH VOW – JUDGES 10-11

1. A nation in trouble (10:1-18)

- **Israel was ungrateful (v.1-5)**
- **Israel was disobedient (v.6-16)**
- **Israel was lacking godly leaders (v.17-18)**

2. A great warrior (11:1-29)

Jephthah was...

- **Rejected by his family (v.1-3a)**

Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:27-31 (NLT)

- **Recruited by the people (v.4-33)**

3. A regretful father (11:29-40)

- **A rash vow (v.29-31)**
- **A painful sacrifice (v.32-40)**

III. REASONS TO PRAY BEFORE WE SPEAK OR MAKE ANY VOWS

1. Make sure I am following scripture and not culture

2. Don't make rash vows

Don't trap yourself by making a rash promise to God and only later counting the cost.
Proverbs 20:25 (NLT)

3. I don't need to make these kinds of deals with God

4. Be a person who keeps my word

"You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.' But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one
Matthew 5:33-37 (NLT)

5. Trust God's grace when I do make a foolish promise

THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL

JOSH. 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak

