



REAL HEROES FOR DARK DAYS

A STUDY OF JUDGES

#9: THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED POTENTIAL JUDGES 12-13

JIM HINTON

Of all sad words of tongue or pen the saddest are these: it might have been
John Greenleaf Whittier

I. REASONS TO PRAY BEFORE WE SPEAK OR MAKE ANY VOWS—JUDGES 10-11

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)

II. OVERVIEW OF JUDGES CHAPTERS 12 AND 13

1. The conclusion of Jephthah's leadership (12:1-15)

2. Samson: The tragedy of wasted potential (13-16)

- **Act One: Samson's thrilling beginning (13:1-25)**

⇒ **His birth was predicted by The Angel of the Lord (v.1-3)**

⇒ **He had godly parents (v.4-5a; 8-23)**

⇒ **God had a special purpose for his life (v.5b-25)**

Next time...

- **Act Two: Samson's turbulent life (14:1-16:22)**
- **Act Three: Samson's tragic end (16:23-31)**