

**AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.**  
**Intergenerational Women's Ministry**  
St. Matthew AME Church  
Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher  
24 April 2021

This month provides an overview of how her

**S**piritual Gifts

**P**ersonality (Presence/Perspective)

**E**xperiences (Positions/Protection)

**C**ares/Passions

**I**nterest

**A**bilities

**L**ife Talents

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contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**



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**All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Jephthah's Daughter**  
**Pages 182-185**

## AWARENESS

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And she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites."  
Judges 11:36 (ESV)

### Jephthah, the Father

- Was the son of a prostitute who made a name for himself as fearless and brave.
- Was called by the elders of Gilead to lead them against the Ammonites who had made war against Israel.
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah and he made a vow to the Lord, "[30Jephthah made this vow to the LORD: "If indeed You will deliver the Ammonites into my hand, 31](#)then whatever comes out the door of my house to greet me on my triumphant return from the Ammonites will belong to the LORD, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." Leaving God to choose the victim.
- **Hebrews 11:32**, NLT: "How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets."
- Jephthah fought and was victorious.
- <sup>34</sup> When Jephthah returned to his home in Mizpah, who should come out to meet him but his daughter, dancing to the sound of timbrels! She was an only child. Except for her he had neither son nor daughter. <sup>35</sup> When he saw her, he tore his clothes and cried, "Oh no, my daughter! You have brought me down and I am devastated. I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break." (NIV)
- Numbers 30:2, "When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said."

### Jephthah's Daughter

- Was nameless and the only child. Except for her he had neither son nor daughter.
- Her answer was heroic, no resentment, no rebellion.
- There was a quiet acceptance of the tragic fact that she was to be the burnt offering her father had promised. She was a willing sacrifice.
- She did not run away from her father ... her blood would be a good price to pay for the divine vengeance over the enemies of Israel.
- She had a willing spirit, her noble consent revealed a nobility of character which quickens our imagination and stirs our sympathy.

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**Her Request**

- To a Hebrew maiden the bitterest pang was to die unwedded and childless and so she asks for a delay of two months that she might bewail her virginity.
- “Give me two months to roam the hills and weep with my friends because I will never marry.” V37
- The heartbroken father willingly granted his noble daughter's request.
- “She and the girls went into the hills and wept because she would never marry.” V38

**Her Reunification**

- True to her promise the sorrowing maiden returned from her weeping place upon the mountains.
- “After the two months she returned to her father and he did to her as he had vowed. And she was a virgin.” V39
- He fulfilled his very specific vow which could only mean the heroic virgin became the burnt offering.

**Her Remembrance**

- The sacrifice of Jephthah's daughter was a perfect one because it was actuated by a twofold love – love for her father and love for her country.
- “From this comes the Israelite custom that each year the young women of Israel go out for four days to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.” V40

**Reflection**

- The sacrifice of children was an abomination and not an instance occurred of human sacrifice to God. What is the closest example of a child sacrifice to God?
- The great question is “what did Jephthah actually do to his daughter on her return?”
- Was she dedicated for life to serve the Lord, a living sacrifice, her sacrifice being that she would never know a man?
- What do we learn about making vows, promises to the Lord from this?

**NEXT MONTH: JEZEBEL, NO. 1 (PAGES 73-77)**

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**SKILL**

**Step Two: Presume**

*“How many loaves do you have?” He (Jesus) asked ... When they found out, they said, ‘five and two fish.’ Then Jesus directed to have all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass ... taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks ... broke the loaves ... divided the two fish ... They all ate and were satisfied.” Mark 6:38-44*

Jesus has already provided what you need to do what He has planned for you. List 3 talents or gifts, what you know for sure, God gave you:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

List 3 people God is using, placed in your life to move you from where you are to where He wants, needs you to be:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

List 1 thing about you that can, is getting in the way of God using you to build His kingdom and how you believe He will make it for His good:

Me (Obstacle)	God (Opportunity)

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**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

Dear (insert your name) \_\_\_\_\_;

Today I engaged in a conversation on values and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most

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Blessings Overflow,

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