**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. October 28, 2018**

**Dark Times And Desperate Men**

Judges 11:1-11

**Key Truth:** Be careful what you ask for, you just might get it!

**Can It Get Any Worse?** Judges 11:1-12:1-7

1. Israel trades morality for security.

2. Jephthah rises to power despite his past.

3. Jephthah trusted God, kind of?

4. Jephthah’s vow comes back to haunt him.

5. Civil War breaks out when Israel refuses to give God

 the glory.

**Life Lessons:**

1. Your past doesn’t have to determine your future.

2. Don’t confuse being used by God, with being

 approved by God.

3. Sometimes we get the leadership we deserve.

4. You don’t need to try to manipulate God to do what

 He has already promised to do.

5. Fights happen when we are focused more on who

 gets the credit.

 A. Our primary purpose is to make God look good.

 Matthew 5:16

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Don’t live in the past. Look to God to give you purpose and value.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read Matthew 5:14-16: Pastor Felton pointed out that our primary purpose and reason for being here is to make God look good. That doesn’t mean God has a reputation problem and needs our help to look good in the eyes of His creation. How can the verses help us understand what it means to glorify God?

2. This week’s sermon showed us that we can’t judge our closeness with God by simply looking at how successful we are in life. However, the Bible does give us some key indicators. According to John 15:1-5 and 1 John 2:3-6, 9 what are some telltale signs that we really are “right with God” and walking with Him?

3. Colossians 3:12-14 and Matthew 5:43-47 help us zoom in and see some specific actions and attitudes that are further evidence of our relationship with God. Which of the things listed in these passages are most important for you to implement? Which are most challenging?

4. It’s easy for us to look at the people from Ephraim who were complaining and criticize them for being all about wanting the credit and fame. Paul had many reasons for being all about those same things in his ministry and yet his attitude was much different. What does Paul’s writing in Philippians 3:4-11 tell us about his true priorities?

5. Read Acts 4:13: As you think about God using ordinary people to do His work, are you in a place where you could use some more time with Jesus in your life? What needs to change?