



DATE	August 7, 2016
SPEAKER	Jared Petty
TITLE	Half-Hearted Faith
SERIES	The book of Judges contains some of the strangest stories you'll ever hear. These unusual stories are entertaining, confusing, dramatic and even a bit crazy. But they also contain deep spiritual insights and truths. You can't make this stuff up!

As a group, read Romans 12:1-21. Ask God to guide your discussion by His mercy and His grace.

1- What did you think of Pastor Jared's description of "hot dog" faith, where we mix together all kinds of Biblical and cultural ingredients into a faith that suits us? Jephthah was influenced by his culture. It may not be easy for us to admit, but we all are influenced by our culture in our relationship to God. Brainstorm some examples of "hot dog" faith in our culture .

2-What's your reaction to the 50-point gap in survey results saying 78% of Americans identify themselves as Christians while just 28% agree the Bible is the inspired word of God?

3- Has God ever called you to a task for which you did not feel qualified and then made you able to do it?

4- The people of Gilead called out to Jephthah when they needed a leader to overcome the Ammonites. Do you see cases today where even church people are calling out for an earthly leader to restore a lost godliness? How do you think God views this?

5-Jephthah made an unnecessary vow to sacrifice his daughter based on common pagan practices and without God's direction. Have you ever made or observed "if God does that, I'll do this" promises? While such promises may have been made with good intentions, how can we be sure they are led by God? What do you think of Jephthah's daughter's response to her father's vow?

6-Did you realize before the sermon that the Bible God provides a way to confess our error in making such a promise and avoid going through with it? Read Leviticus 5:4-6. Do you agree that making promises to God sometimes shows a lack of trust or a perceived need to earn God's favor? Consider the terrible consequence of Jephthah not knowing scripture. What choices can you make today to avoid this tragedy?

7-In what ways do you see Christians mixing culture and Biblical faith resulting in a less godly life? Can you identify ways in which biblical Christianity differs from American cultural Christianity? Why is discerning God's will so difficult once we mix in cultural messages?

8- Consider times in which we have been or have counseled others who think that it is too late for them with God. How can we give grace? Discuss the good news! 1 John 1:9

9-How might this story have ended differently if Jephthah had understood God's grace?

10-We know there are opportunities every day to perfect our faith. Spend a quiet moment considering in what ways you can purposefully move away from a "half-hearted," or "Jesus Plus" culture to a "Jesus Only" faith.