

Making the Most of Life's Opportunities

Lessons From the Life of Jephthah
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Made in _____?



Made in _____?



Introduction

- 1968
 - Swiss sold 13 watches out of every 20 watches sold (65%)
- 1980
 - Out of 62,000 watchmakers, 50,000 lost their jobs
- WHAT HAPPENED? – They had know-how but lacked wisdom!
- Today we will learn how to avoid this mistake

Unlikely Candidates?

- Even those of us who are gifted many in other ways may judge ourselves, or be judged by others, as unlikely candidates for serving great purposes.

Jephthah – A gifted leader with a major flaw

- A mighty warrior
- Others followed him
- The son of a prostitute
 an outcast

Jephthah – They needed his resources

- He had a gang
- Israel was in trouble
- They needed all he could do for them

Being Gifted, Wise, Available

- He reminded them how they had treated him
- He made them say how much they needed him
- He extracted firm formal promises

Jephthah and the Ammonites

- He functions confidently, with a sense of dignity
- He has cast off the garments of shame
- Have you?

Jephthah and the Ammonites

- Not intimidated
- Not caught flatfooted
- Has his facts straight
- Defines the issue
- After exhausting diplomatic means, leads Israel to victory

Be Careful of Success

- Even wise and gifted people need to avoid making dumb mistakes.
- Jephthah makes a rash vow
- Be especially careful when life is going well

People Who Got Too Smart

- O.J. Simpson
- Bill Clinton
- Tiger Woods

People Who Did Well After
Terrible Beginnings

- Woody
- Laura
- David Murdoch
- You?