

## Overcoming Your Past

**INTRODUCTION:** Have you ever felt like everyone was judging you and that you could not meet up to the standard expected of you?

### **CENTRAL IDEA: YOU CAN OVERCOME YOUR PAST!**

#### **I. A Spurned Brother v. 1-3**

- A. Unwanted and rejected
- B. Other unwanted brothers in Scripture
  - Joseph – Genesis 37:4, 18
  - David – 1 Samuel 17

Jephthah overcomes his memories and assumes the leadership of Israel.

#### **II. Struggle of Leadership v. 4-11**

- A. Elders pledge & Jephthah is placed in command vv. 4-10
- B. Jephthah makes a pledge before the Lord v.11

Jephthah proved to be a wise and skilled communicator

#### **III. A Statesman for Israel v. 12-28**

- A. The Problem Presented vv.12-13

- B. The Peace Negotiations

From statesmen to soldier Jephthah excelled in leadership

#### **IV. A Successful Soldier v.29-33**

- A. He was empowered by the Spirit
- B. He defeats the Ammonites

This man, Jephthah, was exiled, excommunicated, and ostracized. Being rejected was a handicap, to be sure, but he overcame the adversity to become the judge of Israel.

### **CONCLUSION**

- The story of Jephthah provides us with a key example to encourage our brothers and sisters with no hope, to be overcomers.
- God often chooses the least likely person and manifests His strength and glory through such people.
- In the hands of the Holy Spirit a man is assured of success in the undertaking to which God has called him.

- Rejection is a stigma that brands a person, regardless of who he is, but many people have overcome it. There are kings, emperors, generals, poets, and popes who have been rejected.

“...Forgetting those things behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 3:13**