

JUDGES | THE TRAGIC JUDGE
JUDGES 10:6-12:7

We love a good underdog story. Rocky Balboa, a journeyman boxer who can't beat Spider Rico, gets a shot at the title, and takes the champ to the twelfth round. The "Miracle on Ice" when the U.S. hockey team made up of collegiate players upset a four-time defending gold medalist and heavily favored Soviet hockey team. We love a story about a nobody who becomes somebody and unsuspectingly attains victory. Our passage today begins with character with a checkered past who gets an opportunity to lead Israel, God's people. Israel had turned again to idolatry and God was all but finished with them. Israel repents and God raises up a judge. Jephthah seems like he is going to be that underdog story, but things go tragically wrong. Jephthah's story becomes one of the most heart wrenching stories in the Book of Judges. What were the mistakes of Jephthah and how can we avoid them?

1. Idolatry leads to _____; conversely true _____ leads to God's _____.

2. God's grace is rooted in His _____, not in any _____ we can _____ Him.

3. Wrong _____ concerning God is incredibly _____. Knowing His _____ is crucial.