

## Introduction

- "Of course God will forgive me; that's His job." Heinrich Heine
  - what is God's job?
  - what does he do for us?

## The Kindness and Severity of God (10:6-16)

- Bad day?
  - one thing going wrong.... maybe a bad day!
  - a whole catalogue.... yeah, OK, you've had a bad day!
- Judges 10:6 is a **bad day** for Israel:
  - not just a wee bit of straying off the beaten path!
  - not like some of the previous statements in Judges about apostasy, about turning away from God!
  - here the writer piles up the statements through the verse...
- Here is faithlessness stacked high
  - Israel's state is not merely critical, but disastrous

## Hear Yahweh's Threat (v.11-14)

- I will not save you any longer!
- God really hates sin
  - and he really, really hates those who think that he, God, is their pet forgiveness machine, ready to jump out and rescue them at a moment's notice!
- Sometimes a parent or a doctor needs to inflict something painful, uncomfortable or unwelcome for the good of the person in their care:
  - perhaps allowing a teenager to face the consequences of their actions so that they learn...
  - here God needs to let Israel learn that they are responsible for their actions, it matters!
  - he's not just going to spoil them...

## See Yahweh's Heart (v.16b)

- Careful - not about them finally getting round to "truly" repenting!
  - we've been here before - they haven't delivered on their repentant words over the long term!
  - and the compassion shown by God is linked in the passage, not to their repentance, but to their suffering and how God feels about that
- This is about God's heart, about his, deep love for his people, his compassion
- Let's not be judgemental Christians who have a lively sense of God's severity, his holiness
  - but little sense of his kindness!
  - let us see God's heart, his deep compassion
  - and remember that it was shown to us here in Judges, deep in the OT, in the mire of murder and violence that is this chaotic period in Israel's history!

## The Instrument of Salvation (10:17-12:7)

- Plumbing story:
  - someone did it themselves to save some money... used lots of "pipe-joint" compound... didn't fix it!
  - needed to go and get a plumber
  - plumber nearly had a coronary trying to disassemble the mess he'd left!
  - but the real problem with the whole affair was having to eat humble pie!
- Who is this Jephthah bloke?
  - geography of the events - maps - Gilead, Ammonites

## Judges 10:1-Jephthah: Doing the Repentance Thingry, 14/11/2004, am

- outcast, son of prostitute, rejected by his brothers the Gileadites
- Draw parallels between Judges 10:6-16 and 11:1-11:
  - see p.141 of Dale Ralph Davis!
  - Jephthah is being set up as the divine deliverer!
  - and then compare with Israel and Jesus!
- Most striking feature is that God will use this man Jephthah to relieve Israel:
  - son of a prostitute, born outside marriage
  - rejected by his brothers
  - leader of a band of thugs!
- He's not got the credentials!! (cf Othniel)
  - yet the Spirit of God came upon this loser, this bottom of the pile outcast!
- **Good news:** He saves
  - hallelujah!
- **Bad news:** imperfectly
  - daughter sacrificed after rash vow
  - evidence of tragic pride in incident with Ephraim and slaughter at the ford
- The writer is pointing out that if we seek a perfect salvation we will have to look to one who is greater than Jephthah!

### **Conclusion**

- True repentance - not just a God who forgives because that is his job
- A God who has a huge compassion on his people
- God used a weak and unlikely Saviour:
  - this time the salvation is imperfect, but in Jesus (of whom there are echoes here) we have a perfect Saviour!