



## **Bible Study: Thursday, March 28, 2019. TOPIC: Vows**

**TEXT: Judges 11:30-40, I Sam 1:11-28.**

**INTRODUCTION:** If there is a scripture that many have not been able to comprehend fully well and has pained the heart of many when they read it, it is the story of Jephthah's daughter. The vow of Hannah was not painful as she still had access to her son. In the case of Jephthah and his daughter they were separated forever and painfully, she was the only daughter. If we read Proverbs 20:25, it might open our eyes a little bit to what a vow really is and how the Bible sees vows.

In our days, whenever people talk about vows, we often twist it to giving in the church. It is true that the bible talks about vows and giving but vows are not restricted to finances. Vows involves every aspect of life. Having studied a little bit about vows, I now see why the ministers who are conscious of money quickly tie people down with a vow. A vow is a very serious matter.

What is a Vow? A vow a solemn promise - like an oath, which you take from heart. For example, I vow to stand beside you, every step of the way. On the other hand, promise means giving an assurance to do something. You take vows, whereas you give a promise.

So, if you take a vow, you take a responsibility on yourself, and giving a promise means, you declare an assurance that you will do something.

A vow is sacred, whereas, promises may be said to be human so they could be broken depending on circumstances.

<https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-difference-between-a-vow-and-a-promise>

From the above definition it could be deduced that vows are divine. Vows are between man and God. Promises could be between man and man or man and God

To a Christian therefore a vow is a decision between you and God and should therefore not be entered into carelessly.

## OUTLINE:

1. How does God see vows: Duet 23:21-23, Num 30:2, Prov 20:25 Malachi 1:4

We therefore have seen that before God Vowing is a serious decision that should not be done without considerations.

2. Most vows in the scripture are for personal reasons or most time a quid pro quo (Something for something). Acts 18:18, Gen 28:20-22, Judges 11:30-31, I Sam 1:11.

Why then will you allow yourself to be pushed into a vow?

### **God commands vows to be made during certain occasions;**

1. Devoting the person to God Num 6:2.
2. Dedicating children to God 1Sam 1:11.
3. Devoting property to God Gen 28:22.
4. Offering sacrifices Lev 7:16; 22:18, 22; Num. 15:3,
5. Afflicting the soul Num. 30:13
6. Some vows can be made even before the child is born. Judges 13:5

### **What are God's commands concerning vows in the Bible?**

7. God does not accept all vows: Deut 23:18
8. Vows are to be voluntary Deut 23:21-22
9. Not every vow will yield a positive result for the taker. Acts 23:12-15.
10. Vows are to be voluntary Deut 23:21,22
11. Vows are to be performed faithfully Num 30:2
12. Vows are to be performed without delay Deut 23:21,23
13. Never make vows without considering its implications: Prov 20:25 Judges 11:30,31
14. For children, a vow is void without the consent of parents Num 30:3-5
15. According to the Torah, for married women, a vow is void without consent of husbands Num 30:6-8, 10-13-15
16. But it is binding on widows and women divorced from their husbands Num 30:9
17. A vow might be redeemed by paying a suitable compensation Le 27:1-8,11-23
18. Never vow what you do not have or what you cannot afford Deut 12:26
19. Never vow abominable things Malachi 1:14, Lev 22:23

20. Do not be forced or coaxed to make a vow. Deut 31:22

**Why does God want us to honor our vows?**

21. God expects His children to be like Him I Peter 1:15-16, Matthew 5:48.

22. God will begin to take you seriously. John 14:2-3, Gen 22:15-18,

**CONCLUSION:** It is better not to vow than to vow and refuse to do it. It is also a huge offence before the Lord for us to make a vow when we know that we are not going to fulfill it. If we want God to begin to take us seriously we ought to also begin to take God's business seriously. Next week we shall be considering usury. God bless you and see you next week.