

What can we learn from Jephtha's daughter?

I have read some agitation that Adah's lecture should be changed because of its sordid thinking. That depends on what we are looking for. "As a man thinketh so is he". We can learn from Jephtha's rash vow, to be careful how we vow.

Had Jephtha used the brains that God gave him, whom could he expect to come from the door of his house but one of his own family. Even after his own daughter came to meet him he could have been absolved from his vow according to the custom of the times by going to the priests and going through certain forms. But he did not want to admit his error. He was too bigoted to admit that he had made a mistake.

I wonder if we can learn a lesson from that! Are we big enough to admit that we some times make a mistake, and do we let others suffer because we don't want to right a wrong?

How different Adah. Young, happy, carefree girl, bubbling over with joy on seeing her father return, she runs to meet him, expecting a royal welcome. What a shock to hear her father's words of doom: "Alas, my daughter, thou hast brought me very low. I have opened my mouth to the Lord and I cannot go back."

Adah was equal to the customs of the times by replying: "Do to me according to that which has proceeded out of thy mouth."

Can you see Adah isolating herself among the mountains for 2 months, under God's blue heaven, battling with herself alone that she may reach the decision to surrender her young life for what she thought was to save another from dishonor!

We will never be called upon to make a like sacrifice. But cannot we learn a lesson from Adah's point and the sacrifice she made? Does it not teach us to be less severe in our criticism of others? To be more loyal to our obligations and friends, to be more charitable to others. To be big enough sometimes to acknowledge that we might have been wrong and thereby lighten the burden that someone might have to bear by our wrong doing.

We might draw a lesson from Adah's point that would help us to be better

fathers and mothers, better sisters and brothers, better sons and daughters.

Yes, we might even learn to be better EASTERN STARS.