

Getting started: Think of your favorite leader/mentor. What quality about his leadership most impressed/impacted you?

Read 12:1-7

Jephthah Questioned

1. What tribe confronted Jephthah after his return from victory? Why were these people upset with Jephthah? What 'heated' rhetoric did they use to intimidate him? (v. 1) Who else had these people threatened before? (Judges 8:1-2)
2. How does Jephthah respond to their complaint? Who did Jephthah credit for delivering the Ammonites into his hand? (vv. 1-3)
3. What was the result of Jephthah's diplomacy? What complaint did the Ephraimites level against the Gileadites? (v. 4) What NT principles may have helped to avert hostility? (c.f. Matthew 5:39-44).
4. Why did the Gileadites seize the fords of the Jordan? With what test did the Gileadites locate Ephraimites crossing the river? How many men failed to pass the test? (vv. 5-6) Explain the impact that such an outcome would have upon a tribe.

5. How long did Jephthah judge Israel? How far did his jurisdiction extend? Reviewing the judgeship of Jephthah, what weakness(es) stare at you? What would you have done differently? (c.f. 2 Tim. 2:24; Phil. 4:5; Proverbs 15:1)

Read 12:8-15

Three More Judges

6. What territory did Ibzan serve? How many sons and daughters did he have? What sign(s) of God's favor were on him? (vv. 8-10)
7. Where was Elon buried? (vv. 11-12) What tribe did Abdon serve? What is notable about his family? What enemy did he likely confront for Israel? (vv. 13-15).
8. Name several things that all three judges had in common.

Going Deeper

9. Looking back through this chapter, enumerate at least three principles of effective leadership from these judges that could apply to people in any day. (Try these verses, if you are having trouble: Pr. 29:11; Josh 1:9; James 4:14; Gen. 39:3)