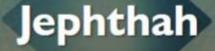


Jephthah Judges 11-12

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior, but he was the son of a harlot. And Gilead was the father of Jephthah. 2 Gilead's wife bore him sons; and when his wife's sons grew

up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman." 3 So Jephthah fled from his brothers

and lived in the land of Tob; and worthless fellows gathered themselves about Jephthah, and they went out with him.



Leaders can come from any background.

29 Now the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to

the sons of Ammon. 30 Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, "If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand, 31 then it shall be that whatever comes out of the

doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." 32 So Jephthah crossed over to the

sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the Lord gave them into his hand. 33 He struck them with a very great slaughter from Aroer to the entrance of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as

Abel-keramim. So the sons of Ammon were subdued before the sons of Israel. 34 When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, behold, his daughter was coming out to meet him with

tambourines and with dancing. Now she was his one and only child; besides her he had no son or daughter. 35 When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You

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have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me; for I have given my word to the Lord, and I cannot take it back."



Reckless words can have a serious impact.