

# Impulse

"(v.1) Now Jephthah of Gilead was a great warrior. He was the son of Gilead, but his mother was a prostitute. (v.2) Gilead's wife also had several sons, and when these half brothers grew up, they chased Jephthah off the land. 'You will not get any of our father's inheritance' they said, 'for you are the son of a prostitute.' (v.3) So Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob. Soon he had a band of worthless rebels following him.

(v.4) At about this time, the Ammonites began their war against Israel.

(v.5) When the Ammonites attacked, the elders of Gilead sent for Jephthah in the land of Tob. The elders said, '(v.6) 'Come and be our commander! Help us fight the Ammonites!' (v.7) But Jephthah said to them, 'Aren't you the ones who hated me and drove me from my father's house? Why do you come to me now when you're in trouble?' (v.8) 'Because we need you,' the elders replied. 'If you lead us in battle against the Ammonites, we will make you ruler over all the people of Gilead.' (v.9) Jephthah said to the elders, 'Let me get this straight. If I come with you and if the Lord give me victory over the Ammonites, will you really make me ruler

over all the people?'

(v.10) 'The Lord is our witness,' the elders replied. 'We promise to do whatever you say.' (v.11) So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him their ruler and commander of the army. At Mizpah, in the presence of the Lord, Jephthah repeated what he had said to the elders.

(v.12) Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of Ammon, asking, 'Why have you come out to fight against my land?' (v.13) The King of Ammon answered Jephthah's messengers, 'When the Israelites came out of Egypt, they stole my land from the Arnon River to the Jabbok River and all the way to the Jordan. Now then, give back the land peaceably.'

(v.14) Jephthah sent this message back to the Ammonite King: (v.15) This is what Jephthah says: Israel did not steal any land from Moab or Ammon."—(**Judges 11:1-15**)

"(v.29) . . . At that time the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and . . . (v.30) Jephthah made a vow to the Lord. He said, 'If you give me victory over the Ammonites, (v.31) I will give to the Lord whatever comes out of my house to meet me when I return in triumph. I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering.

(v.32) So Jephthah led his army against the Ammonites, and the Lord gave him victory.

(v.33) He crushed the Ammonites.

(v.34) When Jephthah returned home to Mizpah, his daughter came out to meet him, playing on a tambourine and dancing for joy. She was his one and only child; he had no other sons or daughters. (v.35) When he saw her, he tore his clothes in anguish. 'Oh, my

daughter!' he cried out. 'You have completely destroyed me! You've brought disaster on me! For I have made a vow to the Lord, and I cannot take it back.'

(v.36) And she said, 'Father, if you have made a vow to the Lord, you must do to me what you have vowed, for the Lord has given you a great victory over your enemies, the Ammonites. (v.37) But first let me do this one thing: Let me go up and roam in the hills and weep with my friends for two months, because I will die a virgin.'

(v.38) 'You may go,' Jephthah said. And he sent her away for two months. She and her friends went into the hills and wept because she would never have children. (v.39) When she returned home, her father kept the vow he had made, and she died a virgin."

**(Judges 11:29-39)**

**New Living Translation**

**In lives lived yesterday, we find guidance for our living today.**

- Impulse = a sudden, driving force or influence; push.
- "Do not be quick with your mouth,  
do not be hasty in your heart  
to utter anything before God.  
God is in heaven and you are on earth"—Ecclesiastes 5:2
- God doesn't have a ***price***.
- God ***always*** supports right and opposes ***wrong***.
- Tough times reveal our ***core*** values.
- So what shall we do?

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?  
He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?

***To act justly***

***To love mercy***

***To walk humbly with your God."***

Micah 6:6 & 8