



“Passion is Not Enough”
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Q: Have you ever known someone who had more passion than good sense?

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. Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand, 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." So Jephthah crossed over to the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD gave them into his hand. 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. 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. When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You 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." So she said to him, "My father, you have given your word to the LORD; do to me as you have said, since the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the sons of Ammon."

Judges 11:29-36 (NASB)

God never asked for human sacrifice:

You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 18:21 (NASB)

He also defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire for Molech.

2 Kings 23:10 (NASB)

The Tragedy of Passion without Knowledge:

I. Leads to _____.

"Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior, but he was the son of a harlot. And Gilead was the father of Jephthah. 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." 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.

Judges 11:1-3 (NASB)

II. Leads to _____.

It came about after a while that the sons of Ammon fought against Israel. When the sons of Ammon fought against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob; and they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our chief that we may fight against the sons of Ammon." Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me from my father's house? So why have you come to me now when you are in trouble?" The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "For this reason we have now returned to you, that you may go with us and fight with the sons of Ammon and become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead." So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you take me back to fight against the sons of Ammon and the LORD gives them up to me, will I become your head?" The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD is witness between us; surely we will do as you have said." Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and chief over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.

Judges 11:4-11 (NASB)

III. Leads to _____.

Judges 11:29-36 (NASB)

Point: _____

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. Have you ever known someone who acted before they understood? Have you ever been that type of person? What have you seen to be the consequences of that kind of impulsiveness?
2. When have you felt rejected by other people? When have you felt rejected by God's people? How did you handle it?
3. Have you ever done something for God that later you realized God never wanted?
4. What is one thing you can do this year to learn more about God and God's will for your life?



Suggestion: Sign up to read through the New Testament in 2022 with your Christ Church family. If you are interested in learning more email pastortodd@christchurchva.org.

ANSWER KEY:

- I. Leads to **REJECTION AND ALIENATION.**
 - II. Leads to **DESPERATION AND RECKLESSNESS.**
 - III. Leads to **UNCALLED-FOR SACRIFICE.**
- Point: **PASSION IS NOT ENOUGH. WE MUST KNOW THE GOD WE LOVE.**