



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 057 - How Dare You Fight Without Us! Judges 12:1-7

The tribe of Ephraim was proud. Descended from the younger of Joseph's two sons, whom God had elevated above his older brother (see Genesis 48:8-20), they were powerful leaders alongside the tribe of Judah. But their pride made them arrogant.

When they accused Jephthah of not having called them out for battle, Jephthah answered, "I and my people (the tribes located in Gilead, the land east of the Jordan River) had a great dispute with the Ammonites, and when I called you, you did not save me from their hand. And when I saw that you would not save me, I took my life in my hand and crossed over against the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into my hand" (Judges 12:2-3).

- How does Ephraim's refusal to cross the Jordan to fight for the tribe's brothers show the disunity in Israel during this time?
- Have you ever experienced a congregational split caused by pride? Describe the lack of love and concern caused by this pride.
- What other causes of division have you seen in the family of God?
- If you were present to see God heal that division, how did He do it?

Despite Jephthah's reprimand, the tribe of Ephraim proudly went to war against fellow Israelites and was trounced. In this conflict, 42,000 of its proud men fell.

- When have you seen someone be overly proud and end up humiliated for it?
- When has this happened to you?

Jesus alone had the right to be proud of Himself. Instead, however, He was always humble, putting others before Himself. Like Jephthah, there was no one to assist Him in His war against Satan. To win our salvation He trusted God His Father as He carried His cross and died alone for the sins of the world—for your pride and mine.

- Seeing Jesus' humble dedication, what does that do to your pride and the divisions it causes?
- How could focusing on Jesus' sacrifice help heal the divisions within a congregation?