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Much Love!

Pastor Ed

Title: Zero to Hero

Text: Judges 10-12

Target: God takes people nobody wants and makes them people everybody wants.

- I. **Reputation of Rejection:** *“Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute. Gilead was the father of Jephthah.”* (Vs.11:1)
- II.
 - A. **His Reproach:** *“**BUT** he was the son of a prostitute”*
 - B. **His Removal:** *“they **drove** Jephthah out”* (Vs. 2)
 - C. **His Rebuke:** *“you shall not have an **inheritance** in our father’s house”* (Vs. 2b)
 - D. **His Refuge:** *“Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, and **worthless fellows collected** around Jephthah”* (Vs. 3)
- III. **Plea for Protection:** *“And they (elders) said to Jephthah, “Come and be our leader, that we may fight against the Ammonites.”* (Vs.11:6)
 - A. **His Praise:** *“be **OUR** leader”* (Vs. 6)
 - B. **His Pain:** *“Did you not **hate me** and **drive me** out of my father’s house? (Vs. 7)*
 - C. **His Purpose:** *“go with us and fight against the Ammonites and **be our head** over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”* (Vs. 8) **The head, not the tail. (Duet. 28:12-13)*
 - D. **His Priority:** *“If... the LORD gives them over to me, I will be your head.”* (Vs. 9)
“And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.” (Vs. 11)
- IV. **Decision for Deliberation:** *“Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king... “What do you have against me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?”* (Vs.11:12)
 - A. **His Discernment:** *“Jephthah **again** sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites”* (Vs.14)
 - B. **His Diplomacy:** *“Will you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? And all that the Lord our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess.”* (Vs. 24)
 - C. **His Distinction:** *“I therefore have **not sinned** against you, and you do me wrong by making war on me. The LORD, the Judge, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon.”* (Vs. 27)
- V. **View of Vindication:** *“Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he **passed** through Gilead and Manasseh and **passed** on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he **passed** on to the Ammonites”* (Vs.11:29) **This was a salute to a warrior!*
 - A. **His Vitality:** *“Spirit of the Lord”*
 - B. **His Vow:** *“then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD’s, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”* (Vs.31)
 - C. **His Victory:** *“So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and **the LORD gave** them into his hand.”* (Vs. 32)
 - D. **His Vice:** *“Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. **She was his only child**; besides her he had neither son nor daughter.”* (Vs. 34)

E. His Virtue: *“Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried **in his city** in Gilead.”* (Vs. 12:7)

Takeaway: You may feel abandoned, not forsaken, crushed, but not defeated, cast down, but not destroyed! (1 Cor. 4:8-9)