



Judges 12

“Leadership Lessons From Slighted Scriptures”

- I. There will always be the _____ amongst us. (Judges 12:1-6)
 - A. _____ brings strife. (Judges 12:1a; Jeremiah 17:9; James 4:1)
 - B. Be sure your _____ is God’s agenda. (Judges 12:4; Acts 5:39)
 - C. Our _____ does not bring the righteous life God desires.
(Judges 12:1b; James 1:20)
 - D. There comes a time when we must _____ with the contentious person
amongst us. (Judges 12:4; Romans 12:18; Titus 3:10)
- II. There will always be shibboleths that can _____ us. (Judges 12:5)
- III. There will always be a _____ between being afflicted or being effective.
(Judges 10-12)
 - A. Jephthah was _____, but effective. (Judges 10-12)
 - B. Ibzan, Elon and Abdon were seemingly unafflicted, but _____.
(Judges 12:7-15)
 - 1. Some leaders are only notable for their _____. (Judges 12:8-10)
 - 2. Some leaders are not _____ at all. (Judges 12:11-12)
 - 3. Some leaders make things _____. (Judges 12:13-15)

Additional Notes:



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Judges 12

1. What is shocking about this chapter?
2. Why were the Ephraimites so upset? What does this reveal about their hearts? (Compare Jeremiah 17:9 and James 4:1-2)
3. Compare Gamaliel's advice to the Sanhedrin in Acts 5:34-39 (especially 38-39) with the Ephraimites' attack in Judges 12.
4. The Ephraimites fought against God's judge and those who fought for God. They sought to intimidate and fought for their own glory instead of fighting as God directed. What do we fight for? What tactics are you using?
5. Read James 1:20. Compare this to Ephraimites' actions.
6. Are there differences (cultural, linguistic, or personal) between you and those around you that you notice – perhaps more than necessary? Are these worth dividing over?
7. What rewards and painful prices are the result of faithful living – in this passage and other places in Scripture? How does this encourage or challenge us?
8. Ibzan was notable for his compromise; what other examples of negative compromise can you think of in the Scriptures?
9. Compare & contrast Elon (Judges 12:11-12) and Esther (Esther 4:14). Has God called you to a task or given you a position of influence? How can you use it?
10. Pray over areas of tension or division in your community; pray that God would enable you to serve Him and give you grace to overlook offense (Proverbs 19:11) and live at peace (Romans 12:18).