

**Minority Reports – Part 4**  
**Jephthah the Illegitimate – Jud.11:1-11; Heb.11:32-34,39-40**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Labels – for better or worse:
- 0.2 Descriptive, or something worse – labels do service and disservice
- 0.3 Jephthah – the “Gileadite” or “son of a prostitute” (11:1) ?

1.0 Jephthah’s Life

- 1.1 Period of the judges (c.1300-1100BC)
- 1.2 Tribal conflict: with Canaanite peoples *and* other Israelite tribes
- 1.3 What is a tribe?
- 1.4 Birth: father of standing + mother in disrepute (sort of)
- 1.5 Ironic: having to scrounge his way through life (11:3), is prepared for heroism (11:4-6)

2.0 Jephthah’s Leadership

- 2.1 Skillful interaction with Ammonites (11:12-28) – though unsuccessful
- 2.2 Successful defensive warfare (11:29-32)
- 2.3 Tragic (and impetuous?) vow (11:30-31,34-40)

3.0 Jephthah’s Legacy (for Us Now)

- 3.1 We (and other congregations) are in a zone where genuine knowing and caring for each other has quickly become a premium
- 3.2 Bible heroes – all of them – were also people with “clay feet”
- 3.3 God is treating broken people kindly – so how much more should we!
- 3.4 The Lord often uses difficult experiences (or failure) to develop virtue; this happens with individuals *and* groups, too.

*Next week (Oct.3) – Minority Reports – Part 5*  
*One Big Dysfunctional Family – Gen.35:9-26*