



Relationship Wisdom: Parenting Woes

Session #6: Jephthah and His Daughter

QUOTE:

"Never get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life." – Dolly Parton –

OPENING DISCUSSION:

Is it really possible to achieve work-life balance? Why or why not?

Judges 11:30–33, 34 (NLT)

And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord. He said, "If you give me the victory over the Ammonites, I will give to the Lord whatever comes out of my house to meet me when I return in triumph. I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering." So, Jephthah led his army against the Ammonites, and the Lord gave him victory...34 When Jephthah returned home, Mizpah, his daughter came out to meet him, playing on a tambourine and dancing for joy. She was his one and only child; he had no other sons or daughters.

Pastor's Big Point:

Whether we are parents or not, we all have experienced the influence of those who parent or choose not to parent us. In the case of Jephthah, he was the son of Gilead, a prominent figure among the tribe of Manasseh, but his mother was a prostitute. He was ostracized and cast out by his half-brothers, carrying the weight of rejection when he made a fatal vow to God. We as believers have to remember who we are in God. We cannot allow the limitations or rejections that others have placed on us turn our hearts sour and kill our destiny. God wants us healthy and whole. He wants us to have life abundantly, not sacrifice our family for greatness and prestige. We have to ensure that our works are faith-filled and in alignment with God's will.

Pastors Teaching Points:

1. Jephthah's Vow
2. Jephthah's Sacrifice

Additional Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 5:6 NLT

1. If you were in Jephthah's shoes, would you have kept your vow to the Lord and sacrificed your daughter? Why or why not? Do you view him as honorable or not so much?
2. Our society is set up as a barter system of trading our time, talents, and gifts for money and authority. How do we as Christians ensure that our works are faith-filled, faith-driven, and in alignment with God's will?

