



3. Success brings the danger of kingdom building.  
(Judges 12:8-15; see also Judges 10:1-5)

## Table Talk

- 1) What is meant by a “Monday morning quarterback”? Has anyone ever done that to you? Have you ever done it to someone? How is Ephraim doing this to Jephthah? (12:1-3) How does Jephthah try to reason with unreasonable people? Why does success put a target on Jephthah’s back? How should a believer respond in such a critical environment?
- 2) What is negative about calling people “fugitives of Ephraim”? Who is called that in verse 4? Who is called that in verse 5? What do verses 4-7 say about tribal unity within Israel? How does this sense of “otherness” about the west side vs east side create hatred? How is it expressed even in the changing pronunciation of Hebrew by members of the same tribe? Do you think that a passage like verses 1-7 has something to say about the current conflicts about racial reconciliation in our own nation? Why or why not?
- 3) Does a leader have a stewardship over all whom he leads, not just the ones that agree with him? If so, what responsibilities does a leader have to honor opponents to his views (and therefore disappoint his supporters)? What responsibilities does a leader have to put opponents in their place and “show them who is boss”? How does the command in 1 Peter 2:17 to “Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.” impact our thinking on these matters? How about Romans 12:14-21 and Matthew 4:43-48?
- 4) In what ways have you seen success cause kingdom building in others? How is this a problem, even in the family of God? How are the descriptions of the large families of some judges a description of personal kingdom building on their part? (see Judges 10:3-5; 12:8-10, 13-15) What signs do you look for to keep yourself from kingdom building?