

Tuesday 27th April 2021

Judges 12:1 *"The men of Ephraim called out their forces, crossed over to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, 'Why did you go to fight the Ammonites without calling us to go with you? We're going to burn down your house over your head.'"*

John 2:15 *"So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables."*

Proverbs 12:16 *"A fool shows his annoyance at once,
But a prudent man overlooks an insult"*

2 Corinthians 11:19 (KJV) *"For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise."*

"That pay offer is insulting." Show the cold shoulder. Cock-a-snook.

Why is it people bridle, feel insulted or take offence often over trivial matters? From heads of nations to the next door neighbour the calculated snub is all too common.

Jephthah was a leader of the Israelites and very successful in battle. He had a reputation for 'jawing' rather than 'waring' but he upset by, allegedly not consulting Ephraim before waging war against the Ammonites. Jephthah became angry with Ephraim's insults and ordered his army to kill large numbers of Ephraimites.

Jesus, too loses his cool with the merchants in the temple and sets about them with a whip because he felt his father, God, was being insulted by their behaviour.

These violent examples should not lead us to think physical or verbal retribution following an insult is acceptable. Far from it. Calm reasoning about, or even ignoring an insult will be pleasing to God. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians and the writer in Proverbs sum it up perfectly.