

Judges Study #5: Judges 7:1-8:28

Gideon's Victory and Defeat

Intro: Recall a time when you boasted about yourself or someone else? Why did you do it?

Having seen Gideon called and commissioned in Judges 6, we now encounter the Lord's deliverance of Israel from the Midianite oppression (7:1-25) and Israel's confusion about that deliverance (8:1-28). As we move through the accounts of the judges, Israel's sin and idolatry become progressively worse. They are now becoming blind to God's grace even as they encounter His mighty power to save.

Read Judges 7:1-25

Question #1: Because Gideon has only 300 warriors and a questionable weapons cache, the Lord mercifully recognizes that Gideon may have some lingering doubts about the potential success of his mission. What is Gideon's emotional condition at this time (v. 10), and how does the Lord help him (v. 11)? What is Gideon's response to the Lord's encouragement (v. 15)?

Question #2: Have there been times when God has weakened you and then worked through your weakness? How does this move you to praise Him?

Question #3: How do the 300 warriors of Israel fight the battle (v. 21a)? According to verse 22, who is the real warrior of Israel, and what does he do?

Question #4: How does it encourage you today to remember that the things that oppose your faith and obedience may be stronger than you, but they are not stronger than God?

Read Judges 8:1-28

Question #5: Some of the Israelites become upset with Gideon because they were not invited to the battle. Others, however, did not want to participate at all. How do the cities of Sukkoth and Peniel respond to Gideon's request for help? Why is their subsequent judgment so severe?

Question #6: What do the Israelites want to do for Gideon after the Lord saves Israel through him (v. 22)? Why is this offer misguided, especially in light of the statement "for you [Gideon] have saved us from the hand of Midian"? How does Gideon respond?

Question #7: Are there aspects of your life you think you should get more recognition and honor for?
How will the gospel of grace help you deal well with your successes?

Application:

In what ways are you being challenged to step out in faith, finding God's strength and reassurance as you do so?