



The Book of Judges

Lesson 5

Gideon: Triumph in Weakness

Self-sufficiency is an enemy when it causes us to believe we can always do what needs to be done in our own strength.

Question: In what areas do you struggle with self-sufficiency in your own life?

Read Judges 7:1-8

The greatest spiritual danger there is – that we should believe that we can save, or have saved ourselves. The lesson we always need to learn is that salvation is by God’s gracious action, not by earning it with our actions.

Question: Why is it a struggle for us to believe we can save ourselves by our own actions or by what we do?

God reduces the number of men fighting for him in two ways:

1. Those who tremble with fear. 22,000 leave.
(Fear is contagious and will cripple you)
2. They go to the river and drink. Only those who lap the water will remain.
(Leaving only 300 men from the original 32,000)

The reductions of men were in order that Israel may not boast against God or their own strength.

Question: Have there been times in your life when God has weakened you so that you can see more clearly that he is the one who saves? How does that move you to praise him?

Read Corinthians 12:7-9

God does not simply work in spite of our weakness, but because of it. He says that his saving power does not work when we are stronger or think we are strong.

Question: Have there been times when God has weakened you and then worked through your weakness? How does that move you to praise him?

Read Judges 7:9-25

Things which stand opposed to us are not as strong as they often appear. Gideon was overwhelmed by the Midianite army, so God sends him and Purah to listen to a dream.

Question: 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?

We can find we lack assurance because we never step out in faith and find God there. Gideon needed reassurance that God would go before them.

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

Even in successes we can praise God for the means and opportunity.

Question: How are you praising God in the success you experience in your own life?

Next Week: Read Judges 8:1-35

Gideon and Abimelech: Ruling as Kings

