

Judges 7

Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

1. Gideon and all the people camp. Enemy is in the valley, to the north. In order to meet and defeat the enemy, you got to start from a higher position. He gets up early....doesn't waste time now that he's sure God is with him. This is a lesson on depending on God.

² And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

2. Boy God really knows people. Tells Gideon, he has too many people with him. Strange, since the enemy still greatly outnumbered them (one can chase a thousand).
 - a. Won't give them the victory unless he takes fewer people because He knew in their hearts they would think themselves more highly than God. This kind of victory would have them thinking that they got themselves out of this mess or that they could deliver themselves.
 - i. If God won't give them the victory until the circumstances are sure that they won't trip after God moves. Wow, perhaps we're still in our mess because God knows how we will act once we get out of it; so our miracle or deliverance is delayed.
 - ii. You can be in trouble and your answer delayed because you might not be broke enough yet.
 - b. There is a danger in "after" you get delivered, that your attitude might change and you say you did it yourself. Examples?
 - c. **Special Note:** God says the danger is people will get prideful as a result of their success from the blessing and victory they received from God. This kind of pride coming out of a victory is against God. Wow. We have to be careful that our success which comes from God doesn't cause us to turn our back on the source of blessing and knock us out of right standing. THE DOWNFALL OF MANY CHRISTIANS AND PEOPLE IN GENERAL IS FAILURE TO RESPOND CORRECTLY AFTER SUCCESS. This must be like taunting God and we don't know it. I don't want to be flagged for an unsportsman like conduct penalty in the spiritual realm.

Application: We need to totally trust God by faith and give Him credit and glory for our success, especially when our success comes as a result of following Him. Important to understand this is never just about us. Others need to know they need to look to God and not us/others for complete

deliverance. God will work through others....but we need to know that He is still the power making the way. A large size and resources can sometimes work against the plan of God and keep you from relying totally on Him. Just because you are big doesn't mean you are right.

Zech 4:6, Psalm 20:7, 2 Cor 12:7-10

³ Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

⁴ And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. ⁵ So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

⁶ And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. ⁷ And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

3. Here we see the means by which they reduced the number of people going into battle. Had 32,000. Note, even with 32,000 they were significantly out numbered. So this takes faith. The first cut in this spiritual tryout – eliminate those who were afraid. Those He eliminated or didn't want to use or participate in the event.
 - a. Those that are fearful (spirit of fear) and those afraid at the present. They could go back now, before they turned back later.
 - b. Notice they had assembled and were ready to go, but inside they had fear.
 - c. Fearful, they will be the first to leave early. Perhaps that's why Jesus often said "fear not."
 - d. Most of the people who leave, 22,000, had fear. Still today, most people look at their problem and circumstance as being greater than what God can provide. Not everyone...most people....most saved people.
 - e. God didn't use scared people....and most of us are scared. Fear is a constant challenge for Christians.
4. 10,000, still too many. Second elimination. God gives them a test. This is a test to see who will be used in this great victory about to happen. You must be careful who you take with you into battle. A lot of people may be willing to assemble with you, but everybody doesn't need to go with you.
5. The test, everyone that laps the water with their tongue like a dog (using their hands to bring the water up)...set them aside. Those that bowed down to drink, set them aside too. There is a

separation here; this is a continued reference to Feast/Step/Level #6 where there is a separation in end time prophesy.

6. Only 300 brought the water to their mouth with their hands. Everyone else bowed down to drink. Notice the posture and positional difference between the two methods.
 - a. Sticking your face in the water to drink, can't see for sure what's going in your mouth. Bowed means you can't see what's going on around you. The 300 though used their hands and remain in a position where they can be watchful and careful. Careful what goes inside of them, careful what they take in, and careful and watchful of their surroundings. There's a difference.....in the natural, if you're about to go to battle, who do you want to go with you?
 - b. Doesn't mean you don't love them or worship with them, just when you need to rely on someone to partner with you to accomplish a big event, you want to be careful who you choose.
 - c. Face in the water....more concerned about yourself getting filled perhaps, while others are more ready and physically capable for battle.
7. God says these 300 are the ones who have passed this test, they will be the ones He will use to save them.
 - a. God will often use others to accomplish His will/plan. He used Midian to spank them, now will use 300 to deliver them.
 - b. They won't start tripping after the victory is over because they have been tested.
 - c. There's a part and role we have to play in our break through and deliverance, God takes care of the hard part, we just need to trust Him.
 - d. Application for today: God looks for those who are discerning. Filter through the Spirit before you take it in!!!

⁸ So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley. ⁹ And it came to pass the same night that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

8. Take provisions with you. Don't try to handle this empty handed.
 - a. Take some food with you. But they only take what they can carry in their hand. That's faith because they didn't pack any food for a long fight.
 - b. Trumpets, sound the warning, rally cry, a message.
 - c. Send everyone else back to their tent to handle business there.
 - d. Retain or hold on to these 300. What God allowed Gideon to hold onto was critical to the success and was all he needed. Don't fret what you no longer have, what He has allowed to keep, will be more than enough.
 - e. Midian still beneath them even though they were still in control because logistically, the enemy was in the valley and they were coming down from the mountain. You may have a problem or situation that currently has power and control over you, that has you broke right

now, but you will be over it and in reality, even though it may be in control now, it is still beneath you so start acting in your authority.

9. God notifies him that night....it was dark. Can't see too well in the dark, but he gets a word where.....in the dark. God always has a word of instruction and encouragement for us in our dark times.
 - a. Arise.....get up....the reason God wants you up is so you can get down to be delivered from the mess you created.
 - b. He has all the tools and preparation beforehand to now go down and deal with the mess or problem. The plan of God is never for us to stay down.
 - c. Didn't give him all this word and provision to just sit. Sooner or later it will be time to go and deal with it.
 - d. Good news.....we get to participate in the miracle God is about to perform....it is how He works.
 - e. When you get there to face the problem, expect victory, act like you already have it in your hand...even if it hasn't happened yet....because it's about to happen.

¹⁰ But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: ¹¹ and thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.

10. Wait, we've already had the fleece test, and the people test, and yet we still have to go back and deal with any fear issues. Sometimes dealing with fear ain't a one-time event. You may have to be constantly aware of fear and deal with it. It can come back on you.
 - a. Problem with fear, it can keep you from getting in position to trust God for your deliverance. Fear can keep you from victory....until he goes down there to deal with it, will never be delivered from it. Fear will have you stuck in one place or running away from where you are supposed to experience victory.
 - i. Running away from kids, marriage, jobs, church, habits, etc.
 - b. But if you are afraid to go down, then do this.....take your servant and go down with him first. God always wants to help us address our fears. Gotta deal with that first.
 - c. Take Phurah = the branch with you (few-rah). When facing the enemy bring the branch with you.

Application: When the fear comes back....where can I find a good branch? Where is the friend named Phurah that will travel with me? Who will be with me so I can hear the words that I need to hear in order to be strengthened?

- Isaiah 11:1
- Jer 23:5
- Zech 6:12;

- John 15

11. Go down and hear what they are saying about you. When you hear what the enemy is saying, it will encourage you to go forward and carry out the mission. Sometimes the enemy knows more about us than we do.

¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

¹³ And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along. ¹⁴ And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

¹⁵ And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

12. A huge number. So many they couldn't count how many were against them. Often your enemies or your problems will seem to outnumber you. Notice though, God has placed him in position to hear an encouraging word even though his problem and immediate task seems large and insurmountable.
13. Gideon hears about a man's dream. A cake of barley bread and takes out a tent. Barley bread = Gideon, same meal he served the Lord.
14. Dream interpretation is this is Gideon's sword; God is fighting for him and putting victory over them in his hands. Meaning while Gideon was afraid of the enemy...the enemy was really afraid of him.
15. When he heard the dream interpretation, he worshipped right there. Was encouraged and went back to lead the people to victory. Speaking faith before they had victory. Proclaimed that God had already done it before they already had it. You can worship Him right there.
 - a. God who can direct dreams and the fact Gideon was messing up their sleep; he knew that there was some fear and concern. Enemy really is scared of you when God is fighting for you.
 - b. Notice what cause Gideon to worship right there.....the word.
 - c. **Reflection for Parents:** Have you ever been amazed at those times when you told your children the word of truth and instructions.....and they don't believe or act upon those

instructions. Then they hear the same words from someone else and someplace else and come back excited about something you told them earlier. How did you feel? I imagine God as our Father must shake His head as well....so sometimes He must have in place someone else to give us that word of truth and encouragement to get us going.

- i. Example – for some time I tried to teach my son and other the proper mechanics for shooting a basketball. Sometime later (in some cases years later), I see them shooting now using some of the things I was trying to teach earlier. I don't say anything because I'm just happy they have an understanding and application now. But I do shake my head and wonder, what would have happened and how much further along they would be now, had they listened and applied when they first heard the word.

¹⁶ And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

¹⁷ And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. ¹⁸ When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

16. Divided the team up. Each man had a trumpet and a lamp. Each one about to make an announcement and shine a light they had received from the man of God. That's how they were getting ready to deal with this big problem in front of them.
17. Follow my lead. What you see me do, you do the same thing. When I get close to the problem and get ready to deal with these enemies, you watch me and do what I do. Who should we be watching now??? Answer – Jesus.
18. Not only tells them to watch him, but tells them the battle plan in advance. So they will be getting a word and an example to know how to proceed.
 - a. When I blow the trumpet...sound the warning, they were to blow as well. When he made a noise, they were to make a noise. Surround the enemy with noise, with praise, with an alarm. They were going to say the same thing....the sword of the Lord and Gideon. Leveraging from the dream they had heard to strike even more fear. We don't have a sword now, but we do have a word that acts like a sword that is the word or sword of the Lord and if we are swinging it....then it's our sword too. Rev 19:21.
 - b. This is a wonderful leadership example....leadership by example still very important today.

¹⁹ So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

²⁰ And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

²¹ And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. ²² And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

²³ And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.

²⁴ And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Bethbarah and Jordan. ²⁵ And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.

19. Came right when the middle watch started so they were not sleep and they could be very alert in sounding the alarm. Broke the pitchers, making an interesting noise and concealed the light until it actually was time for them to see the light.

20. Surrounded by these sounds and obedience and praise.

- a. Commentary points – destroy the enemy by preaching the Word;
- b. Sounding the trumpet and alarm;
- c. Holding the light that comes out of an earthen vessel.

21. The enemy was afraid and ran. All they could see were the lights and hear the noises.

22. Enemy began attacking each other. God caused the confusion. God's people could watch while the enemy killed themselves. When you do this right, your haters will start fighting someone other than you.

- a. Be very careful. Just like confusion and fear caused the enemy to attack themselves, the same conditions can have Christians attacking each other while the enemy watches us lose.
- b. Your praise can confuse the enemy. This is how we fight our battle.

23. Others got together and joined in the rout. Pursued after or chased the enemy.

24. Gideon calls for others to join in. Some are best equipped to join in after the initial work has begun. They obeyed. Didn't get mad because they were not involved from the start.

25. Other side of Jordan, other side of defeat, experiencing victory.



- a. Oreb = raven
- b. Zeeb = wolf