

Who is That and Who Cares?

Gideon: God's Odds (3)

Judges 7-8

1 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. 2 The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' 3 Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

Rules for Soldiers

Deuteronomy 20:5-9

*5 The officers shall say to the army: "**Has anyone built a new house** and not yet begun to live in it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else may begin to live in it. 6 **Has anyone planted a vineyard** and not begun to enjoy it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else enjoy it. 7 **Has anyone become pledged to a woman** and not married her? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else marry her." 8 Then the officers shall add, "**Is anyone afraid or fainthearted?** Let him go home so that his fellow soldiers will not become disheartened too." 9 When the officers have finished speaking to the army, they shall appoint commanders over it. Deuteronomy 20:5-9*

Back to Judges

4 But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

8 So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

13 Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed."

14 His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands."

*15 When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! **The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.**" 16 Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.*

17 "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. 18 When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.'"

22 When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.

Judges Chapter 8

1. Ephraimites were angry they didn't get invited to the war. (8:1-3)
 2. Gideon was hungry and Sukkoth 'Sukkothed'. (vs. 6 and 8)
(Peniel "Sukkothed" too)
 3. Gideon wanted his son to kill the Midianite kings. (vs. 20)
 4. Gideon took the ornaments from the camels necks. (Ishmaelites) (vs. 21)
 5. The Israelites invited Gideon to rule over them. (vs. 23)
 6. Gideon instructed them to worship God but made himself an Ephod out of earrings.
(vs. 25-27)
(Ephod - Golden tunic worn by the high priest)
Eventually put on display and worshipped by the people.
- Gideon went back home to Oprah (vs. 28-35)
— He had 70 sons and lived to a 'good old age'
— He also had a son named Abimalek with his concubine.

**Abimalek - eventually became the next leader of Israel....
(Chapter 9)

But that is a story for a different day.

Music

Sermon Part 2

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2 The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'

Judges 7:2 (NIV)

*2 And Jehovah said unto Gideon, **The people that are with thee are too many for me** to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Judges 7:2 (ASV)*

Gideon believed that God was giving him more than he could handle.

But God doesn't do that - right?

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptation: (*peirasmos*) sin, testing, trial, any type of suffering

Illegitimate totality transfer: Exegetical Fallacies (D.A. Carson)

— reading every possible use of a word into the meaning of a word.

****What did the author mean to communicate through the word within a specific context.**

So what's the context?

vs. 6 those who desire evil

vs. 7 - those who worship idols

vs. 8 - those who are sexually immoral.

vs. 9 - testing Christ

vs. 10 - grumbling

vs. 12 - those who think they stand...

vs. 13 No temptation (to sin) has overtaken you.

He will provide a way out. (through)

— Become a worshipper before a warrior.

— Measure the difficulty of the task by the ability of the one doing the task. (God)

— God's Odds - but they still had to swing the sword.

