

Book Tour 2018 (Judges)

It's Not How Many But Who

Judges 7:1-8

God's Word is true. God's Word is sharp and good. I will tell others of its great power **so that He will receive all worship and power in our life.**

Introduction: God is looking for or I should say choosing a few good people!

- A. Here is a thought I want to share if we are very careful we will put the ministry of the church the work of the church is our person work good works ahead of the one that we are suppose to be working for. God ends of as an after thought to what we are getting accomplished.
 - 1. Church, God has to remain the shining star of the church! He has to be the hero of everything that is right and that is good! God has to be the focus, He has to be what is noticed.
- B. There is way too much focus today being placed on the church organization, the pastor, and what the people in the church are doing and how big the organization is getting.
 - God is barely getting noticed!
 - The movement is about the Pastor, the church, or the event!
 - In that case then we have become something other than the people that God intends us to be!
- C. In this morning text God addresses with Gideon the problem with man being getting to full of himself.
 - 1. So He pairs down His army to a size that it would be obvious that only with the hand of God could they win the battle.

This Morning I want look at the 2 qualifications that God uses to select the Army He will use.

Transition: Man has a real problem not being in the spot light not receiving the credit!

- We want to be the Church everyone attends
- We want to be The Pastor everyone reads and listens to
- We want to be The Music Ministry everyone talks about
- We want to be well you fill in the blank

But God wants the world not to notice us but to see what He can and is doing through us!

- And there are two attributes that He points out here that we must have for that to happen.

#1 Courage

I. **A Believer Needs Be Fearless Verse 3**

A. God made clear to Gideon the reason that he was making his army smaller is was to show that was God that would win the battle.

1. So the ones that would make up this small army would have to be fearless they could not back down even if things looked impossible.

- And the catalyst fearlessness is faith!

2. But it is faith in the right thing it faith in God!

- We cannot get distracted that is when we get afraid that is when we loose heart!

- We can't be afraid to make big moves if God gives us direction and just believe that He will work out the details and do amazing things!

B. Just having a bunch a people do something doesn't prove anything but having a few fearless people make big moves for God's glory and sacrifice their personal comfort for God's glory that He is the star that accomplishes much.

1. He told Gideon to tell them if you are afraid say your afraid but the real question he was asking do you believe?

- Without faith we can accomplish nothing because that means we are trusting our own strength but with just a small portion of faith in God we become fearless and there is nothing we can't accomplish in His name!

C. Too often God gives us direction and we sit and we debate with ourselves.

1. We play the what if game.

- What if it does work out
- What if its not what I want it to be
- What if I have to suffer
- What if I not happy
- What if that list can go on and on and on

- But here is the biggest one What if I am to afraid to do what God is directing me to do.

2. He told 22,000 just go on over and sit down I am not going to use you!

Transition: Maybe its time, Maybe its time to quick living on egg shells and start living fealess follow what God puts on our hearts and let Him handle what happen next let Him be the Star of your life give the Glory!

A. Then God told Gideon that army was still to big so he was to pair it down even further take it to not only the fearless but the ones that were aware of what was going on around them.

II. Believers Needs to Be Alert Verse 4-7

A. Now we see this strange way that God divided Gideon's army even down farther.

1. He led them down to drink and the ones that knelt down and drank he sent home but the ones that cupped the water in their hands it was those 300 men that God choose to do His work!

- Now this was simply a way of dividing the people but it does bring up a interesting illustration!

B. If you have your head down not pay attention to what is going on there is a good chance you are going to get defeated!

1. We need to look up and see what God has for us!

- Church I am not a date setter I do know the timing of God but I know what His Word says: **25 “There will be [a]signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the [b]world; for the powers of [c]the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”** Luke 21:25-30

- Keep your head Jesus is going to return in all His glory.

2. That is what I am saying we are turn so inward to what we are doing that we show be looking toward what God is doing and what God is about to do in our lives!

- Church it is God that is winning the battle in our lives!
- It is God that is providing for us!
- It is God that is protecting us!
- It is God that is the focus of our worship!

= There were way to for Gideon’s army of 300 hundred to defeat but that’s just it wasn’t Gideon’s Army it was God’s Army!

C. God was about to leave no doubt that He was completely in charge!

1. God said the ones that kept their heads up, the ones that were fearless!

- That the way Christian lives need to be lived alert looking for God in every part of our lives!

- Too often God is never even thought about from Monday to Sunday morning and even then church gathering is nothing more than a place to network and make connections for next week's business or play dates or where my kids can meet other kids!
 - Church, Church is not a place Church is a people in literally means a gathering it is a gathering to be equipped with the word of God to live our lives for the glory of God!
- Fearless and Alert ready for battle looking for God in every aspect of our lives and live for His glory!
 - **Have we become what God warned Gideon about: 2 The Lord said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel [a]would become boastful, saying, 'My own [b]power has delivered me.'** Judges 7:2
 - Are we leaving God out of our religion???
 - Are we doing it on our own???

Closing: Let me close with these thoughts:

- A. God was making a point with His people He showing the Israelites that He was God that it was only by His power that they could win the battle!
 1. Church we cannot live in fear to live for His glory!
 2. We cannot fear follow His direction for our lives!
 3. We must live our lives fearless for the glory of God!
- B. When Gideon take this army of 300 turns out he doesn't even need 300 the enemy kills themselves or flees.
 1. Church all we need to is look to God follow His direction God will take care of the results.
 2. God is going to be glorified and He has chosen to use our live to it!!!!

- I want to encourage this morning by asking you what at first may seem like a silly question but it is thought provoking: Is God the reason you profess to be a Christian or are you just trying to get some insurance against going to Hell?
 - Do you love and trust Him believe in Christ with all your heart or do you just not want to go to Hell?
 - Think about it!
- God will get His Glory from His people!