

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Three Hundred Men

Judges 7:1 – 8:35

Theme: *Focus*

Major Segments:

- Gideon gathers a large army to fight the Midianites
- God instructs ways for Gideon to decrease his number of men
- Gideon learns of a dream that foretells victory over the Midianites
- Gideon conquers the Midianites with only 300 men

Segment Questions:

- Gideon often asked questions of God and seemed to doubt his calling; however, God seems to lovingly provide evidence. What does it say about Gideon that he doubted?
- Why did God not get angry about being “tested” by Gideon? In what ways are Gideon’s questions different than “testing” God? [Matthew 4:7 - Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your **God** to the **test**.’”]
- Why would the way the men drank water be used to choose who should stay and who should go? Is this God randomly choosing a way to limit the number or is there a practical reason – does it matter?
- What is the significance to God choosing to walk Gideon step by step to 300 men as opposed to God simply telling Gideon to choose 300 men as He was going to provide victory over the Midianites?
- Why did God want Gideon to have such a small army as it is clear Gideon was listening to God’s direction and was faithful? How does “focus” play into downsizing the initial 30,000 men?

Action Questions:

- Today’s study was focus. How does this speak to you about putting focus in your walk with God?
- The purpose of God wanting Gideon to have such a small army was that He wanted Israel to know the God alone defeated the enemy. Are there battles in your life where your army is too big and God wants you to put more trust in Him?
- At its core, Gideon is about God taking a weak, humble, and fearful man and creating a great victory for His people. It is a theme found throughout the bible. How does this encourage you as you battle for God?

Judges 7:1 – 8:35

From: www.btstories.com

Gideon gathered a troop of 32,000 men. He took them and camped south of the Midianites. The Lord had Gideon decreasing this number so that the Israelites could not claim victory by their own power.

He told those who were afraid to go home and 22,000 people left.

God then told Gideon to watch how the remaining 10,000 men drank water. Those who kneeled down and drank like a dog were sent home. The remaining 300 were ones who used their hands to bring the water to their mouth.

Those who were left made camp above where the Midianites were in the valley. The people of Midian were like a swarm of locusts, and their camels were like the sand by the sea.

That night the Lord said to Gideon, “Sneak into the Midianite camp. If you’re afraid, take your servant with you. Listen to what the soldiers say.” So Gideon took his servant and went into the Midianite camp.

He heard a man telling a friend about a dream where a loaf of bread rolled into our camp, struck a tent and totally destroyed it. His friend said the dream meant that God has handed the entire Midianite camp over to Gideon.

Gideon returned to Israel’s camp and said, “Get up, for the Lord has given the Midianites to you.” He divided the 300 men into three companies of 100. He gave each man a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside it. He instructed them to follow his lead.

Then he placed them on three sides of the camp. When they were all in place, Gideon’s group blew their trumpets and broke the jars. The other two groups did the same. They held their torches in their left hands, their trumpets in their right hands, and shouted, “The sword of the Lord and Gideon!”

This totally shocked the Midianite army! They panicked and started to run, yelling as they ran. Gideon’s men blew their 300 trumpets. With this, the Midianite soldiers drew their swords and started killing one another.

Gideon then sent for the rest of the men of Israel. Together they ran after the Midianites as they tried to leave Israel. God gave a great victory that day over Midian, and they were no longer a threat to Israel.

After the battle, the people wanted to make Gideon their king, but he refused. He simply went back to live at his house. Then Israel was at peace for forty years.