

Gideon, Unlikely Deliverer

Judges 7:16-22

Intro: Who would have chosen Gideon to lead their army? Who would have chosen his troops? Who would have chosen his weaponry? Who would have followed his orders?

I. Unlikely Choice

1. Gideon's Fear (6:11 In hiding)
2. Gideon's Folly (6:13 questioned God)
3. Gideon's Faithlessness (6:33-40 Required a sign)

II. Unlikely Army

1. Starting the Reduction 32,000 fighting against 135, 1000; Reduced to 300 (7:2)
2. Strange method of Reduction (7:4-7)
3. Sovereign Purpose in the Reduction (7:2)

III. Unlikely Strategy

1. The Maneuvering (7:16,18,21 each man had to be in his assigned place)
2. The Munitions (7:16 trumpet, water pitcher, torch I Cor. 27-29)
3. The Mandate (7:17 follow me)
 - i. Christ the example (are we following His example)
 - ii. Christians as the example (I Tim. 4:12 Be thou an example)
4. The Moment (7:19)
 - i. Darkness
 - ii. Distraction (changing guards)

IV. Unlikely Orders

1. Sounding Trumpets (7:20 Herald announcements, call to war Num 10:2)
2. Smashing Pitchers (service, commitment, Broken roof, Broken food, Broken bread)
3. Shining Torches
 - i. Hidden, times of obscurity: John the Baptist JN 5:35, Christ
 - ii. Exposed, times of publicity
4. Shout of Battle (Sword of the Lord)
5. Standing in Place (7:21 Obedience to commands, easy to charge, hard to stand still)

V. Unlikely Victory

1. The Midianites were Fearful (7:21 Ran and Cried, battle cry, who fought them?)
2. The Midianites were Foolish (7:21 Fled, who chased them?)
3. The Midianites were Fratricidal (7:22 The LORD set ...)

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When the enemy assails you this is what you should do:

1) The Cross

Bethshittah: House of Acacia wood (ark of covenant made of this type of wood)

Zererath: Place of piercing

2) Praise the Lord anyhow

Abelmeholah: Place of Dancing

3) Celebrate the Victory

Tabbath: Celebrate