

Faith is the Victory! Part 2. _09/22/2024 Covington Church of Christ.

Lesson helps: Westpalmbeachchurch.com, Beaverton church of Christ,
<https://www.bibleanswer.com/index.htm> <https://ardmorecoc.org/about/preacherJohnGibson>. Embry Hills and NKJV bible.



- Outnumbered: 450 to 1(300 men)
- Weapons: torch, trumpet and large clay jar, to battle Midianites.
- Gideon trusts God to bring victory.
- Hero of faith: Hebrews 11: 32 *And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were*

made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Gideon's attitude - As God directs, I will follow!

Gideon's acts of faith - Removed idols, let God lead him and 300 men into battle.

Gideon's life after the battle, some good, some not so good, some ugly.

The good – The reminder of what God has done versus prideful men -Judges 8:1 *Then the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they accused him fiercely. 2 And he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the grape harvest of Abiezer? 3 God has given into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. What have I been able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger[a] against him subsided when he said this.*

The bad – Gideon forgot to show mercy, forgot he was just like his Israel brothers Succoth and Penuel.

Judges 8:4-9, 13-17.17 *And he broke down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.*

The good – 40 years of quiet - Judges 8:28 *Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon*

The good – "I will not rule" Judges 8:22-23 *22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian." 23 Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you."*

The bad and ugly – Judges 8:24 *And Gideon said to them, "Let me make a request of you: every one of you give me the earrings from his spoil." (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)*

Ishmaelites from Abraham (Hebrews 11:8) – the bad and ugly from long ago. *Judges 8:25 So they answered, “We will gladly give them.” And they spread out a garment, and each man threw into it the earrings from his plunder.*

The bad and ugly – approx. 40-50 pounds of gold in one place. Not victory! Trust in the Lord! *26 Now the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was one thousand seven hundred shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments, pendants, and purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the chains that were around their camels’ necks. 27 Then Gideon made it into an ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah. And all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house.*

The revisit of v28 bad and ugly – vs 28 what missing is the change of heart, repentance, tearing down the idols of life. *28 Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon*

The bad and ugly – vs 29 *Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house. 30 Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives. 31 And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech. 32 Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.’”*

Gideon says one thing and does another. Acts like a king. Many wives, takes it to another level with a name “My Father is king!”

Spread of hypocrisy and forgetfulness by Israel - 33 *So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god. 34 Thus the children of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side; 35 nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.*

Gideon’s later days -what can we learn? How could Gideon his family and Israel continued in victory?

Both Gideon and Israel forget sermons of earlier, forget God’s deliverance and victory, forget promises to only serve him!

Gideon was an example of what needed to be done(actions of faith)

- Deal with idolatry and sin like he did in chapters 6 and 7
- Trust in God for victory.
- Listen and follow the sermons from God’s word with all your might
- Show mercy, remember God has been merciful to me.

What we need to do is finish strong - 2 Timothy 4:7-8. *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*