

The Book of Judges: mankind exposed

Judges 7 - "God Guarding His Glory"

Introduction

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

Matthew 26:41

Luke 24:44-49

Accentuating the _____ of man and the deficiency in man highlights the need for God and the power of God and thus _____ God.

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

I. An Army SMALL enough to be of Use

1) The Serious _____. - Judges 7:1

2) The Startling _____. - Judges 7:2

We know from Judges 8:10 that the Midianite army was made up of 135,000 soldiers. Gideon only had 32,000. So the Israelites were outnumbered about _____ to 1.

1 Corinthians 4:7

Dale Davis - "Does (not this verse) tell us there is a certain deviousness in God's people, a tendency to steal God's praise? Does it not teach us that sometimes He cannot trust us with his work unless we realize how inadequate we are to do it? This may explain why God frequently chooses such unlikely instruments."

J.G. Stipe once said that faith is like a toothbrush: Everybody should have one and use it regularly, but it isn't safe to use somebody else's.

3) The Scary _____. -Judges 7:3

Gideon is left with less than a third of what he had. Now he's outnumbered 135,000 to 10,000. He's out numbered about _____ to 1.

"Either fear will conquer faith and we'll quit, or faith will conquer fear and we'll triumph. John Wesley may have been thinking of Gideon's army when he said, 'Give me a hundred men who fear nothing but sin and love nothing but God, and I will shake the gates of hell.'"

4) The shocking _____ . - Judges 7:4a

5) A Sizable _____ . - Judges 7:4-8

Gideon's Army has gone from 32,000 to 300. They've gone from being outnumbered 4 to 1 to being outnumbered _____ to 1. From a human standpoint, things look terrible, but from God's standpoint He finally has an army _____ enough that He can work with.

II. A GREAT God Gracious Enough to Comfort and Deliver

1) God's reassurance is _____ . - Judges 7:9-15

2) God's reassurance is _____ . - Judges 7:15

3) God's reassurance is _____ . - Judges 7:13-14

4) Gideon's response is immediate _____ . - Judges 7:15

Warren Wiersbe writes of this verse, "It's significant that Gideon paused to worship the Lord before he did anything else. He was so overwhelmed by the Lord's goodness and mercy that he fell on his face in submission and gratitude ... Before we can be successful warriors, we must first become sincere worshippers."

David Jackman – "[worship] is the expression of faith because it is worship that turns us away from ourselves to the God who is immeasurably greater than our minds can imagine or our hearts encompass."

We have got to learn that _____ is essential to our
_____. - 2 Chronicles 20:20-23

5) Gideon's response was intense _____. - Judges 7:15

6) God's people were passive in their _____. - Judges 7:16-22

C.J. Goslinga – “The torches flickering on all sides told the Midianites they were surrounded. The pandemonium of shattering jars deluded them into thinking that the Israelites had already entered the camp and were creating havoc there. And the battle cry with the dreaded names of Yahweh and Gideon did the rest. The enemy was thrown into a panic. While Gideon and his 300 men merely held their positions, waving their torches and blowing their trumpets, the camp rushed about in wild confusion.”

7) God was powerful and poetic in bringing about _____.
- Judges 7:23-25

Warren Wiersbe – “The story of Gideon began with a man hiding in a winepress, but it ended with the enemy prince being slain at a winepress.”

Chris Fritz 1/18/09
Harbour Shores Church