

Judges 7:1-8 How the Mighty Have Served, pt. 1

2/8/09 - The Exchange

- I. Running start - I have decided...
 - A. Gideon called, prepared enough, equipped enough. God gifts, prepares, equips us. We have a certain amount of our own strength that comes from the Lord.
 - B. For what? To do what the Lord had called Gideon to do with Him. 6:12, 14, 16. It isn't just us, it's God with us. Emph. on God.
 - C. God tests Gideon, Gideon clothed with the Spirit, people rally.
 - D. Gideon tests God, gets in the flesh, wants out.
 - E. Going to see these themes amplified.
- II. 7:1-8 God-sized army (picture Rohan army gathering)
 - A. 7:1 32K came together. 135K for Midianites. More than 4:1.
 - B. 7:2a Whose mission is this? The Lord's, or Gideon's?
 - 1. God acts like He is in charge or something. Is He?
 - 2. God doesn't say "here's the job go for it check in once in a while".
 - 3. Savior AND Lord. Only possible through Jesus, only Jesus can be both. Rom. 10:9-10, Phil. 2:10-11 Every knee shall bow...
 - C. 7:2b
 - 1. My own hand has saved me - with 32K?! Could go either way. "We need more!" "Look what we did with only 1/4!"
 - 2. "We did it!" with the Steelers win. "we?"
 - 3. Don't take the mission from The Lord. We can't take credit for when it works and can't blame God when it fails. Ministry, life, or salvation.
 - 4. It isn't about what we do, it's about what God has done. "I'm saved because I believe" true, but not all. "I'm safe because I'm standing on the bridge." But someone else built the bridge.
 - D. 7:3 Idea sounds strange to us. Provisions in Deut. 20.
 - 1. New house under construction.
 - 2. Engaged.
 - 3. Plain old afraid.
 - 4. Possible Midianites saw this departure. Now down to 13:1.
 - E. 7:4-6
 - 1. 7:4 God and Gideon have this conversation. Too many? For real?! And you're going to test them how?
 - 2. 7:5-6 One hand bring water to mouth so you can still keep watch and other hand on sword. Good. Getting on all fours and putting face in water, bad.
 - F. 7:7-8 Flesh reaction; too few! God's reaction; too many! 450:1.
 - 1. God and creation. 6 days? Why so long? Why did God use as many as 300? Angel and 185K.
 - 2. From our perspective; where do you put your trust? Trust "stuff". Illustration; limited amount, where do you put it, do you split it up?
 - 3. From God's perspective; God doesn't need us, but he wants to use us, to have relationship with us.
 - 4. The gospel