

Judges 8 How the Mighty Have Fallen

3/1/09 - The Exchange

- I. How the mighty review
  - A. Risen, Served, Fallen
  - B. Bible is a magnifying glass (burn and fry those in the word, and other people while you praise yourself) or a mirror (see your own shortcoming and learn from others, as well as see you as God sees you in Christ).
- II. 8:1-21
  - A. 8:1 Ministry jealousy
    - 1. Ministry succeeds, "Why didn't you include me?" I'm due!
    - 2. Didn't he blow the trumpet? Messengers didn't go to Ephraim specifically, but they probably heard what was up.
    - 3. Whose to say they would have come anyway? 135K dudes!
    - 4. Some won't back the difficult situation until they see it work out. 7:2. Then when it works, they want inclusion.
    - 5. If it's of the Lord, you do it, and He gets all the glory.
  - B. 8:2-3 Sincere or brown nosing?
    - 1. Appealed to their self-sufficiency. No mention of God's victory.
    - 2. I think he was trying to placate them out of fear and to look good. Otherwise he would have handled it differently.
  - C. 8:4-9 Is he being moody or what?
    - 1. Wiped out, stressed out, exhausted, how do you represent the Lord to your people (those you defend), even when they oppose you? How about those following you?
    - 2. Who is the focus on? Self. God is the one doing this. Him, us.
    - 3. Self control 2 Peter 1.
  - D. 8:10-12 Pursues and finishes Midian
  - E. 8:13-21 No indication that this was from the Lord, His will.
    - 1. Gideon in the flesh. Might feel right, might feel justified, but not of the Lord. Be careful.
    - 2. Blackberry bushes description.
- III. 8:22-28
  - A. The Lord shall rule over you. Great words! Apparently just words. Kind of a man pleaser.
  - B. How quickly change can occur when one has success.
  - C. Took the plunder. How much of it went to the Lord?
  - D. Even though they played the harlot, they still had peace/rest for a season.
  - E. Good doesn't always mean good. Bad doesn't always mean bad. God was not happy to be certain
- IV. 8:29-32 Not a good obituary. How the mighty have fallen.
  - A. Sometimes when leaders fall, people call into question their legacy. Mike Warnke. Ted Haggard. Jim Bakker.
  - B. If what they accomplished was of/from the Lord, then it isn't their legacy, it's the Lords. Most Bible heros had ugly chunks, some did end well. Doesn't negate what the Lord did through them.
- V. A picture of a life in the Lord with no roots

- A. A new believer is just as saved, just as called, just as gifted, just as empowered as a seasoned saint, and can be used just as powerfully. But you need to grow, need to mature. It's called a walk with the Lord, not a step.
- B. HBHS. Eggs, eaglets, eagles, has beens. Don't be a has been.
- C. How? Learn from Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-8). Remember, repent, repeat. Stay in relationship, stay on top of it. If you go off, remember, repent, repeat.
- D. First love. We love Him because He first loves us. How do we know? Jesus.