

GIDEON (pt.3): Judges 8

By Brett Baggett on Sunday, February 23rd, 2020

- The story of Gideon ends quite differently than the other Judges in this book.
- Typically, once the LORD saves the people through a Judge, the story ends with something like “and the land had rest for 40 years.” With Gideon, its not so simple. The people of God are on a downward spiral. They begin to abandon the LORD before the Judge dies.
- In addition, this Judge, Gideon, has deep flaws that are revealed in chapters 8 and 9—which detail him and his son Abimelech.
- These deep flaws should make us ultimately long for Jesus—and praise God that He has raised up a better Deliverer—a better Savior!—His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!
- WHAT WE ARE SHOWN IN CHAPTER 8 SHOULD SERVE AS A WARNING SIGN! These are negative examples. We should not imitate Gideon and the people. Rather, we should learn what we should !WATCH OUT! for as we trust Jesus as our Savior and follow Him as our King.
- 1 COR. 16:13 “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”

I. Watch out for PRIDEFULNESS AND JEALOUSY over HUMILITY AND REJOICING (v.1-3)

- Gideon’s response is sort of a riddle. He and his 300 men had accomplished more than Ephraim, but they, being drunk on pride take it as a compliment and their anger subsides.
- The fact of the matter, though, is that Gideon did not call out Ephraim to help fight the Midianites because the LORD was making clear that He saves His people by grace alone! That’s the whole point of the 300 men, which excluded the people of Ephraim.
- Ephraim wanted something to boast about. Ephraim wanted the glory of taking part on the thick of the battle. But let the one who boasts boast in the LORD. He does what he does for His glory and our good. And our chief good will be found in humbling ourselves and ascribing all glory to Him!
- There’s another way pride is revealed in us. It is when we are anxious or worry. What we are saying is that God’s plan is “this” but I think it should be this. Bitterness is thinking God got it wrong; Worry is thinking God won't get it right. Both are rooted in pride, rather than humility and rejoicing!

II. Watch out for PRAGMATISM over FAITHFULNESS (v.4-17)

- Pragmatism: “an approach that assesses the truth of meaning of theories or beliefs in terms of the success of their application.”
- Illustration: Once a friend of mine was a leader in the youth ministry of His local church. At a meeting the youth pastor asked the leaders for input concerning how the ministry was going...

III. Watch out for PRESUMING THE LORD WILL NOT DESTROY THE WICKED (v.18-21)

- They thought themselves beyond the reach of God’s vengeance. Not so.
- The only way any of us will escape the destruction we deserve for our sin is by fleeing to Jesus—through faith in Jesus, trusting in Jesus, clinging to Jesus—who was destroyed as a substitute for sinners!

IV. Watch out for WORSHIPPING GOD HOW YOU DECIDE rather than HOW GOD DECREES (v.22-28)

- Wrong OBJECT of worship = Gideon (“you have saved us, [Gideon]”).
- Wrong FORM of worship = Ephod (a sleeveless garment worn by Priests).
- This should remind us of the Golden Calf that Aaron fashioned for the people of God in Exodus 32. Both word made of golden rings.
- Gideon borrowed pagan elements of worship and sought to slide them into the worship of God. Do Christians and churches today do any different?
- Here’s the question this part of the Bible demands us to ask: When it comes to worshipping God, will we do what is right in our own eyes or will we do what has been prescribed by God?

V. Watch out for FORGETTING THE GOSPEL rather than REMEMBERING ALL THAT GOD HAS DONE TO DELIVER US (v.22-28)

- We don’t need a Gideon. We need Jesus. And we have him.