

Judges 7:16 “Then he divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.”

Judges 7:22 “When the 300 blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled...”

Judges 8:10 “... for 120,000 men who drew the sword had fallen.”

IV. You Better Be Ready to Face Down Your Greatest Enemy – Pride – that Will Tempt You to Take Credit and Steal God’s Glory

Judges 8:22 “Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, ‘Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.’”

Judges 8:23 “But Gideon said to them, ‘I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you.’”

Judges 8:27 “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.”

For Personal Reflection

**What do you feel God is calling you to do?
Are you obeying or doubting?**

More People Like Us with Problems Like Ours

Gideon ~ the Power of Weakness

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / June 13, 2010

Judges 6:1-6

2 Objections & 2 Surprises in the life of Gideon

I. You Might Not See Yourself as Some Big-Time Gifted Leader Just Looking for a God-Sized Challenge

Judges 6:11-16

- **Gideon did everything he could to deflect God’s call**

v. 12 ‘the LORD is with you’

v. 13 ‘If the LORD is with us, then why has all this happened to us?’

- **Gideon doubted God’s faithfulness**

Judges 6:13 “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about...”

- **Gideon downplayed the suitability of his own family background**

Judges 6:15 “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’”

Judges 6:16 “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”

- **God just might be calling you!**

II. You Might not See Yourself as Some Great Man or Woman of Faith that Just Loves to Step Out into Uncharted Waters for the Glory of God

- It's OK to take your first step of obedience still gripped with fear and misgivings

Judges 6:25-27

- You might still feel like you need constant reassurance that God is still in this

Judges 6:36-40

- What are you dragging your feet about... and still waiting for God to give you another 'sign'... another 'word'... even though you know what He's told you to do?

Don't keep asking God for a sign... God's asking you to obey!

“Expecting God to do tricks for us is bad. Don't pray: ‘God, if You want me to got out on this date, then make my professors cancel all their assignments for the weekend. If You don't do that, I'll just tell Josh that it wasn't the Lord's will that we go out.’ The whole fleece approach to life is dangerously close to violating Jesus' admonition, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test’ (Matthew 4:7)...”

When the theme of the book of Judges is ‘everyone did what was right in his own eyes’ (Judges 21:25), we should think twice before copying whatever practices or attitudes we find in its chapters.” *Just Do Something*, Kevin DeYoung, p. 79-80

III. You Might Just Be Small Enough for God to Actually Use You Greatly

Hebrews 11:32 “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson... of David and Samuel... who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle...”

- God's Just Not into 'Big'

Judges 7:2-3 “And the LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is afraid, let him turn and depart at once...’ And 22,000 of the people returned and 10,000 remained.”

Judges 7:4 “And the LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people are still too many...’”

Judges 7:7 “Then the LORD said to Gideon, ‘By the 300 men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand...’”

- God's Not into 'Special'

Judges 7:13 “... He said, ‘I have just had a dream: to my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.’”

- God's Not Interested in Blessing Our Conventional Strategies and Human Wisdom