

THE SIFTING OF GIDEON'S MEN Judges 7:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. When Gideon blew the trumpet (Judges 6:34) 32,000 men came running. (2 Cor. 10:18)
  1. "Not he that commendeth himself is approved..."
2. When God applied the sifting process to the 32,000 only 300 were left.
  1. "Not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. 2 Cor. 10:18

LESSONS TO LEARN

1. It is not enough to come to the front like Gideon's thousands. "The people with thee are too many," the Lord told Gideon. 32,000 too many for an army of 120,000, Judges 8:10, Gideon might have asked.
  1. Our own strength and wisdom are always too many before God. 1 Cor. 1:29, "That no flesh should glory in his presence."  
2 Cor. 12:10, "...for when I am weak, then am I strong." Zechariah 4:6.
2. Gideon's faith tried.
  1. Gideon sees his army melt away like a heap of snow before the warm sun.
    1. The loss of the first 22,000 men was a heavy blow...but still they went away of their own accord.
    2. He had the painful duty of dismissing the 9700 who had left home, who had come to share the danger with him, and who might have left him with the 22,000 had they chosen to do so.
  2. Gideon's Faith:
    1. His faith was that entire trust in the word of God that produced obedience to that word.
    2. Gideon's faith was in that day and is today worthy of all praise and imitation in our lives.
3. A LOOK AT THE 9700 VERSUS THE 300 WHAT WAS WRONG?
  1. A straw may indicate which way the wind blows.
    1. Those who "bowed down upon their knees" were eager for their own selfish gratification.
      1. Looking down... dangers about may not be seen
    2. Those who "lapped" the water seemed more conscious of the dangers about them.
      1. Not with our heads down but with our heads up we are more alert to the dangers abouts.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Lord told Gideon that the trumpet (Judges 6:34) 32,000 men came running. (2 Cor. 10:18)
1. "Not he that commendeth himself is approved..."
2. And God spoiled the fighting process to the 32,000 men who were left.
1. "Not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." 2 Cor. 10:18

THE SIEGE TO GIBION

1. It is not enough to come to the front like Gideon's thousands. "The people with thee are too many," the Lord told Gideon. 32,000 too many for an army of 100,000. Judges 8:10. Gideon might have asked, "Our own strength and wisdom are always too strong before God." 1 Cor. 1:29. "That no flesh should glory in his presence." 2 Cor. 12:10. "...for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12:10.

2. Gideon's faith tried.

1. Gideon sees his army melt away like a heap of snow before the warm sun.
1. The loss of the first 22,000 men was a heavy blow...but still they went away of their own accord.
2. He had the painful duty of disarming the 700 who had left home, who had come to share the danger with him, and who might have left him with the 22,000 had they chosen to do so.
2. Gideon's faith:
  1. His faith was that entire trust in the word of God that produced obedience to that word.
  2. Gideon's faith was in that day and in today's world of all praise Admiration in our lives.

3. A LOOK AT THE 2700 VERSUS THE 300 - WHAT WAS WONDER?

1. A story may indicate which way the wind blows. Those who "bowed down upon their knees" were eager for their own selfish gratification.
1. Looking down... dangers about may not be seen.
2. Those who "lapped" the water, seemed more conscious of the dangers about them.
1. Not with our heads down but with our heads up we are more alert to the dangers about us.