



Finishing Well (Judges 8)

Main Idea

Gideon may have won the battle but he lost the overall victory. The battle Gideon won over the Midianites gave him good reason to call the nation back to God & be obedient to His law. However, Gideon didn't use this occasion for God's glory but instead used it for his own profit and therefore the nation lapsed into sin once again.

Ice Breaker:

Gideon & his army were exhausted after chasing the remaining army of the Midianites (V. 4)
What activity this past month made you exhausted?

Discussion Questions

1. What did you gain from reading this chapter?
2. Do you see any similarities between you & Gideon in this chapter? If so, please explain
3. Ephraim's leaders were mad because they felt left out because Gideon did not call them to join battle with him but instead had them "cleanup" the remaining Midianite army who was escaping. By the Ephraim leaders staying behind they got to cut off the army from escaping. (V. 1-3)

Know that every necessary job is not always highly visible.

Are you content where God has placed you at or do you resent the work God has given you?

4. As Gideon was in pursuit of Zebah & Zalmunna (V. 5); what might you be in pursuit of this year or a month from now?

Would there be any setbacks or detours among your life's pursuit?

5. Why do you think Gideon resisted the Israelites' invitation to rule in the place of God (V. 22) yet worship an ephod instead (V. 27)?

6. What tends to become an "ephod" in your life; Family? Relationship? Work? Hobby? Etc..?

How will you submit this unto God?

7. What do you do with your resources? (V. 25-26)

8. After reading this chapter & listening to the podcast how would you answer this; are you positioned to finish well?

Applications

1. Gideon may have had good intentions for making the ephod. Maybe it was going to be a symbol to remind the people of their victory over the Midianites. (V. 27)

Maybe next time you have good intentions on something stop to ask what may go wrong with this or could there be possible consequences?

Think about if a good idea maybe a potential disaster

2. Depending on what you leave behind for the future generations could either be a positive or negative impact on them. What example are you setting for the next generation? (V. 29-33)

3. Gideon led the nation to victory in the battle against the Midianites but couldn't lead his family. (V. 31)

Learn to never be morally relaxed because it will cause major consequences in your life.

Remember just because you won a spiritual battle against temptation doesn't always mean that you win the next one. Keep watch of the temptation that creeps up in your life!

Bottom Line

If you don't consistently follow The LORD you can easily fall into sin even after making great spiritual progress. Learn from Gideon's mistake.