

“His Worthiness Is What Matters”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Remember in Luke when Jesus told Peter that he (Peter) would deny him (Christ) three times? Then it happened just as Christ said.

...Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. Luke 22:60-62 (NIV)

I can only imagine how Peter put himself down as a person and as a Christian. Likely the enemy also condemned Peter mercilessly.

Have you ever done anything that you are ashamed of having done? I know I have. Have you ever condemned yourself for doing that act or saying what you said? Does the enemy come to you still and condemn you



Notes:

over and over for these things—even if you have already confessed them to God and repented? Consider this: John 21 tells us of how Jesus reinstated Peter. This reinstatement did not include Peter having to grovel, or Jesus telling everyone how worthless Peter was but that he (Jesus) wanted to bring him back in the fold because he (Jesus) was such a nice guy. Jesus reinstated Peter by verifying that Peter loved him, and then by giving Peter a command "**Feed my lambs.**" (Jn. 21:15 NIV). Jesus said more, but my point here is this: We have worth and righteousness only because of Christ and what he did, not because of what we have or have not done. The past is the past. Christ is the one who is our Redeemer and therefore our focus. Praise his name!

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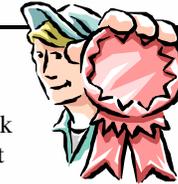
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...with The Sojourner

“Winning With God” (Teaching Sketch)

Judges 7:1-8a (NIV)



We are continuing to look at the story of Gideon found in the Book of Judges. We pick up at the point where Gideon prepares his army to go into battle with Midian.

Notes:

The Lord informs Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her...." Let's look further.

Camp Of Preparation

We find the Israelites early in the morning camped by the spring of fear (Harod). Do you think that you might be watered by the spirit of fear just prior to a battle in your life? Many people never make it past the preparation point in their lives, due to fear. These people often remain there churning in fear while justifying fearful behavior as being wise, as they count the cost of their battle. The cost they are counting is not just money, but position,

prestige, and power. Their inaction is a result of their own fearful decisions.

The Lord Picks Fighters

It is at the spring of fear that the Lord picks his fighters and informs Gideon which ones are to be allowed to go into the battle. The Lord continues his instructions saying, "Announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" Do you see that fear can also cause God to allow you to retreat to the rocky hard places and there be left behind from the Lord's battles. You see Gilead means "rocky." Beyond that, can you see where large numbers of believers doing or accomplishing a matter might find themselves caught up in pride and take credit belonging to God and thus soon forget him as their hope? The battle when won by man's efforts with pride can be in as rocky a place as that of the fearful,

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Judges 7:1-8a (NIV)

Gideon Defeats the Midianites

1 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon^[a]) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod^[b]. The camp of Midian^[c] was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh^[d]. 2 The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel^[e] may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, 3 announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead^[f].' " So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. 4 But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go." 5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to

Notes:

[a]
Gideon
= Feller,
i.e. Warrior

[b]
Harod =
fear

[c]
Midian
=
Brawling
contentious
ones

[d]
Moreh =
teacher

[e]
Israel =
Those
who
prevail
with
God

[f]
Gilead =
Rocky

drink." 6 Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. 7 The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." 8 So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Additional Reference:

Matthew 25:27-29 (NIV)

27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

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holding with it hardship and misery, also. Pride is often motivated by fear of not being recognized as superior to others.

Fear Or Faith

Moving into the successful battle with God requires faith and faith dissolves fear.

God cuts the number men to go into the battle from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300 fighters. Do you not think that there would be a greater opportunity to fear on the part of those remaining for battle each time a cut was made by God and announced by Gideon?

Notice, God gave the instructions to his appointed person and the entrusted person passed God's instructions on to the faithful. God then announces his victory, and says, "'With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place."

Sent Back

Notice, each person not acceptable is then sent back to their own place, their own

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tent (covering). They were still a part of God's chosen people but were not acceptable for battle. Why? So God would get the glory, to protect them from pride, and to delineate a division of labor.

Provisions Reassigned

Jesus said if one is foolish in handling the Lord's gifts even those should be taken from him and given to a faithful servant. Gideon's fighters were not foolish, but even they demonstrated that proper provisions are to be allocated properly.

Take special note of what Gideon is instructed to do next. The 300 "took over the provisions and trumpets of the others."

Even with God on their side, going into battle, 300 were to use the provisions and trumpets of 32,000! You see some are called to do exploits, some are called to lead exploits, and some are called to share in the exploits with those who are to go into the battle. All—leader, fighter, and sharer are still a part of God's Kingdom!