

Gideon - both saint & sinner

March 7, 2021

Pastor Mark Turner

Judges 8:1-35

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Gideon Used by God

- God used Gideon to deliver His people 7:19-25
- Gideon had faith - Heb 11:32-34
- Chapter 8 is not so favorable – Gideon was like us - a sinner

Gideon A Wise Diplomat 8:1-3

- Proud Ephramites confront Gideon for not including them
- Gideon answers wisely and humbly 2-3
- A soft answer turns away wrath - Prov 15:1

Gideon's True Character Revealed 8:4-21

- Tired & hungry Gideon asks for provisions from Succoth
- Succoth refuses - perhaps fearful if Gideon is unsuccessful
- Gideon responds in anger - threatens punishment
- Gideon tries at Penuel - similar result
- Israel's unity is decaying - individual rights, not people of God
- Gideon responds with selfish anger against brothers
- Gideon captures 2 kings: Zebah & Zalmunna
- Gideon returns & disciplines Succoth; kills men of Penuel
- has Gideon forgotten whom he serves?
- Takes revenge on kings in act of personal revenge

Gideon's Legacy in Israel 8:22-35

- People of Israel want Gideon as king & dynasty
- Gideon's response seems right... but actions raise questions
- ANE feigned humility (see Gen 23:14-15) in negotiation
- Gideon doesn't remind people Lord won the war
- Gideon asks for spoils of war (over million \$)
- Uses gold to make ephod which becomes idol

Gideon's Dangerous Slide 8:27-28

- Gideon of tribe of Manasseh not a Levitical priest
- Exo 28 Moses made ephod for use only by High Priest
- People whored after ephod (became an idol)
- Gideon centered worship in his home town not Shiloh

Gideon's Final Report 8:28-32

- not pretty - acted like worldly king - many wives, concubines
- Son of concubine named Abimelech: my father is king
- Gideon used power & fame for his own gain, not Lord's glory

Lessons:

- Gideon was man of faith^{Heb 11:32-34} but his sins got in the way
- Gideon shows us that no human can save us!
- We need God's provision of Jesus - He alone can save us!
- Gideon is a saint and a sinner like us - see Deut 7:6-11
- We need a continual spiritual renewal - look to God alone in faith; use God's means of grace: Word, sacraments, life in His Body (Church) to remember God's grace alone!

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