

## Judges Chapter Seven (Part One) – Teaching Notes

**Introduction:** A key idea in the book of Judges is that God blesses obedience and punishes disobedience. Today, we hope to discuss Gideon's conquest.

### **Body:**

#### **Read Judges 7:1-8**

**2. Gideon's Conquest.** The Lord talks with Gideon. The Lord has Gideon to know that his army is too big. If they win, they may think that it was because of their own power, instead of God's power. The army reduced from 33,000 to 10,000 because of fear. And the army is reduced from 10,000 to 300 perhaps because of those who were apparently too comfortable.

#### **Applications –**

- **God's leadership.** Notice in vs. 2 that God spoke to Gideon about what He wanted to happen. In like manner, God normally speaks to the one He sent to lead about what He wants to happen. Leaders should make sure they stay sensitive to the leading of God. And followers should make sure they follow God's will as it comes through the human leader. "Follow leadership as long as it doesn't contradict God's word." *As people of God, let's work on following God's leadership.*

- **Giving God the glory.** Notice in vs. 2 that God wants the glory. Sometimes God strips us of the things we may be tempted to glorify instead of Him. Think about how when we have a good job, we are tempted to think that things are well in our lives because of the job. We may be tempted to think that things are well because of our own wisdom and strength. But in reality, it is God who works things out for our good. God may use our job or our wisdom, but it is ultimately God who should get the glory. *Let's work on giving God the glory.*

- **Faith over fear.** Notice in vs. 3 that God is calling us to be people who have more faith than fear. On one hand, the devil is real and powerful. If all we had going for us was ourselves then we would have reason to be afraid. But on the other hand, God is real and more powerful. We are not in this thing by ourselves. *Let's live like we have more faith in God than fear of our circumstances.* Such living should be known for confidently obeying God.

- **Special assignments.** Notice in vss. 5-8 that everyone cannot serve in every capacity. In our text, the issue seems to have been the people who got down on all four and put their head down to the water were too comfortable. In like manner, there are some assignments that require a sense of alertness and urgency that many people may not have. Some assignments call for special qualities that may or may not make sense to us. Here is where we need to learn how to simply trust that God will work things out for the good of His people. Think about how in church, there is not only a need for competencies (i.e., skills) and character (i.e., a track record of discipleship), but there is also a need for chemistry (i.e., the ability to get along with the rest of the team). *Let's cooperate with God's leading our leaders in choosing the right teams.* Think about how this relates to Pastor's choosing their officers, politicians appointing their cabinet, and even our young people choosing their spouses and associates.

- **God's 300.** Notice in vs. 7 that God can do more with the 300 than we can do with the 32,000. First, it is worth noting that the 300 would not have stayed with Gideon, if it were not for the

Lord. Second, our confidence needs to be in the Lord, not the 300. *Let's work on trusting God to take care of us, as we strive to live by His will.* Think about how this relates to church life, where most of the people don't support the vision. Think about how it applies to a community of people who spend more time killing and committing crimes against one another than with lifting one another up.

**Conclusion:** Let's work on being obedient, instead of disobedient. God has much for those who obey His will.