

Class,

I hope you have been and will continue to pray for our Romania team. I have loved the reports David Wuth has been sending out! Because they are away from us we need to do our best to be in class Sunday to fill up the chairs and kill any "crickets" in our discussion. Here are questions for you to ponder and prepare to share.

Allen

Cricket Questions for July 22, 2012 - The Story of Gideon

Risk

July 22, 2012

Allen Power

The lesson passage below are Judges 6:11-16; Judges 7:9-11; Judges 7:13-15. To really get the full story read Judges 6 and 7.

Opening question: So, what are you afraid of? What are some of the most common fears or phobias people have? Anyone have any of these?

Judges 6:11-16

11 The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. "

13 "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

14 The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

15 "But Lord,[a]" Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family. "

16 The Lord answered, "I will be with you , and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

Let's talk about God's view of Gideon.

Verse 12: How did God see Gideon?

What promise did God make?

But, how did Gideon see HIMSELF?

Let's talk about Gideon's state of mind when the angel...the Lord...showed up.

Our first clue to Gideon's state of mind is his location.

Question: Look at the end of verse 11...WHY was he threshing wheat in a winepress?

Question: Look at verse 13. What does it tell us about Gideon's state of mind?

Have you ever asked that question of God?

Verse 15: How does Gideon describe his family and HIMSELF?

Let's put this all together. How did God see Gideon? How did Gideon see himself?

What did God want Gideon to do?

Question: How can Gideon RECONCILE these conflicting views?

Read verse 14 again.

14 The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

Question: What in that verse RECONCILES why God would call a weakling like Gideon a "mighty warrior"?

Question: What do we learn from these verses about what kind of man or woman God uses?

Judges 7:9-11

9 During that night the Lord said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. 10 If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah 11 and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp." So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp.

So Gideon is eavesdropping, and here's what he hears:

Judges 7:13-15

13 Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed."

14 His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands."

15 When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands."

So, what do these two chapters teach us about fear and faith?

Charles Stanley cites several Biblical TRUTHS we can glean from the story of Gideon. Let's see if we can discover them.

Question: Gideon was faced with incredible challenges. How does God use incredible challenges in our lives as He did with Gideon?

Question: Clearly Gideon felt inadequate for the mission. When it comes to doing an assignment from God, why can it be a healthy thing to feel inadequate?

Question: Why would it NOT have been God's will for the Israelites to win the battle on their own? THEY would have received the credit not God.

Question: God allowed Gideon to overhear the mindset of the enemy the night before battle. What does that say about how God works with us in the midst of doing His will?

Question: God instilled confusion in the army of the Midianites. What does that say about how God works?

Question: God ordered Gideon into battle with only 300 men and just torches, jars, and trumpets. Did that make any sense at all? What does that say about the things God may lead us to do in fulfilling His will?

What is YOUR Takeaway? What does the story of Gideon say to YOU?