

THE TRUE KING REIGNS

God's Power and Gideon's Pride: The Blindness of an Impure Heart

Judges Part 6 (Ch 7-8) | Brian Criscuolo | May 24, 2020

Intro: (Judges 2-6)

I. God's Power Displayed (Judges 7:1-22)

A. Israel Decreased (7:1-8)

B. Fears Divulged (7:9-21)

C. Enemy Disoriented (7:22)

II. Gideon's Pride Developed (Judges 7:23-8:21)

A. Unsanctioned Reinforcements (7:23-25)

B. Stolen Recognition (8:1-3)

C. Personal Revenge (8:4-21)

III. God's Power Dismissed (Judges 8:22-8:35)

A. Asking for a king (8:22)

B. Acting like a king (8:23-27a, 29-31)

C. Accepting their king (8:27b-28, 32-35)

Discussion questions for you and your small group

1. Using the Bible to guide you, recall as a group the story of Gideon that chapters 6-8 covered. As a group try to summarize the main plotline in just a couple paragraphs.
2. In the sermon on Sunday we read how Gideon quickly went from a man who stepped out in faith trusting in God, to a man who let his pride rule over his actions. Review again how Gideon's pride manifested itself in verses 7:23-8:21.
3. Having discussed Gideon's pride, read Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and talk specifically about how Gideon, in verses 7:23-8:21, 8:23-8:27, and 8:29-8:31, fell short of the standards God set forth in Deuteronomy 17.
4. Now that we've discussed Gideon's pride, let's look inward at our own pride. In the book *The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott states, *Pride is the epidemic vice. It is everywhere and manifests itself in many ways. As much as we may hate to admit it, we all have pride, each and every one of us. The question is not, 'Do I have it?' but, 'Where is it?' and 'How much of it do I have?'* Discuss this statement and share personally the ways your pride manifests itself.
5. What is your default reaction when you read about flawed characters like Gideon in the Bible? Do shake your head and think "How could they be so blind to what God was doing?" Do you look outward at these characters in judgment, or instead do you look inward and upward in considering how you too might be prone to missing what God is doing in your life?
6. If we are to recognize what God is doing in our lives, we must be devoted to regularly communing with God through prayer, reading and studying His Words, and engaging with our local church. How are you doing at this?
7. Sometimes we don't seek God as we ought or are full of pride like Gideon. Yet Christ's blood covers the sin of His people and God is full of continual grace. Close by turning towards God in prayer, through repentance and gratefulness.