

## “DECIDING VICTORY”

Judg 7:1-8

*Our scrip: Deciding who will be used by God/who will have victory. Focus on area of purity or uncleanness.*

### I. THE INTENTION OF VICTORY

- A. God's intention is victory: Context; COI have been defeated/living under the enemy's power for 7 years
  - 1. But God shows up – Gideon isn't even asking/seeking God
    - a. God doesn't want you to live in defeat! You were made for dominion
  - 2. God still plans victory for those who have been defeated
    - a. Whole nation backslidden   b. Idol worship going on in Gideon's house
      - 1. *Judges 6:12 the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"*
    - b. God sees you for what you can be – not what you have been in the past
      - 1. As soon as Gideon believed God – God helped him

### II. THE CHOICES OF VICTORY

- A. Our scrip shows us not all will be used/have victory: Look at some characteristics
  - 1. **Men who have never committed themselves:** *V3 who doesn't want to be here? 22,000 go home*
    - a. In life – we wind up where we have committed ourselves to be: *Finances/retirement/weight*
      - 1. *Men who have never committed themselves to be clean – in advance*
  - 2. **Men who have no plan:** Vaguely intend on being clean – but haven't thought through how to
    - a. Think how you usually get off track   b. Think through practical steps to get clean/stay clean
  - 3. **Men who have no boundaries:** Samson failed b/c of his willingness to cross boundaries
    - a. Willing to take in filth: Read/listen/watch/   b. Willing to talk/spend time with women – inappropriate
      - 1. *2 Peter 2:8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)--*
  - 4. **Men who are not honest or accountable:** Simple truth – these men were being watched
    - a. Most were living like no one was watching: Some are unwilling to have anyone know
      - 1. *Behavior observed, changes: Trusted friend/Pastor   Accountability software: Covenant Eyes – send report*
- B. We see who will be sued/have victory: Look at their characteristics
  - 1. **Men who make specific commitments:** *Who intends on staying in the fight?*
    - a. Tell God   b. Tell someone else   c. Write it down
  - 2. **Men who have a plan:** Some specific attitudes/actions I need to follow
  - 3. **Men who have boundaries:** God honors men who establish boundaries
    - a. *Jeremiah 35:6 But they said, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, 'You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever.'*
    - b. *Psa 101:3 I will not look at anything wicked...*
  - 4. **Men who are honest or accountable:**
    - a. You draw strength from others
- C. At the end of the day – victory is a miracle from God
  - 1. *Judges 7:20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers--they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing--and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"*
    - a. Not self-help: God doing what we cannot do!

### III. THE USEFULNESS OF VICTORY

- A. God wants every man to be useful
  - 1. To be used to defeat the enemy
    - a. *Judges 7:20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers--they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing--and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"*
  - 2. To be used to protect the vulnerable
    - a. Wife   b. Children   c. New converts   d. Other struggling brothers
- B. Your destiny is not just about you:
  - 1. Other people are depending on you