

Our srip: 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 srip 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