

Gideon: Compromise in Victory

Judges 8

- I. Gideon completed the victory (Judges 8:1-21).
 - A. Gideon wisely handled Ephraim's petty jealousy (8:1-3).
 - Pride, Jealousy – Do we get upset when we aren't invited to help or don't get credit for success?
 - Giving a wise and "soft answer" – Do we know how to respond wisely to angry people (Proverbs 15:1)?
 - B. Gideon punished those who refused to help and even hindered his men (8:5-17).
 - Do we ever hinder someone from serving God because of fear, envy etc.? Do we hesitate to serve God if we are unsure how it will turn out?
 - C. Gideon pursued the Midianites to their end (8:4; 18-21).
 - Persistence – Do we finish what we start?

- II. Gideon compromised after victory (Judges 8:22-35).
 - A. Gideon rightly refused the kingship and declared that God alone must rule the people (8:22-23).
 - B. Gideon wrongly established a "priesthood" which distracted the people from worshipping God (8:24-27).
 - Wisdom failure: Gideon unwisely made an ephod, which gave everyone an excuse for idolatry.
 - Character failure: Gideon usurped God's priesthood by making an ephod.
 - C. Gideon led Israel as judge for 40 years of peace until he died (8:28-35).
 - Character failure: Gideon seemed to adopt the lifestyle of a king though refusing the title – wealth, women (Deut. 17:17)
 - Consequence of compromise: Gideon's positive impact ended when he died.

Main Point: Do we rest on spiritual victories in our past without paying attention to dangerous compromises with temptation now?