

A ROUSING VICTORY
JUDGES 7:1-7

Introduction:

1. The Midianites were descendents of Abraham's son by his concubine Keturah.
2. They lived to the east of Israel in Arabia and became a thorn in the flesh to the Jews.
3. They coaxed the Jews into worshipping idols and involving them in all kinds of debauchery.
4. Because of this God used the Midianites to bring judgment upon Israel for her disobedience.
5. The name "Midian" means "strife" and that certainly describes them in regard to Israel.
6. By the time we get to the book of Judges the Midianites had become a fearful army that was continuing to raid Israel and cause havoc. **cf. Judges 6:1-6*****
7. The Jews cried out to God and He raised up a deliverer for them - Gideon.
8. In preparation for battle God gave, what seemed to be, an unusual order. (Read Text)
9. There are three things we can see in God's direction to Gideon.

I. GOD'S POWER IS ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HUMAN POWER.

- A. After arriving to the promised land from Egypt, Israel won some battles and lost some.
i.e. Jericho and Ai
- B. Every battle they lost was because they did not do as God directed them.
- C. When they were obedient they found that it was God who won the battle for them.
- D. God's power is unfathomable. **2 Corinthians 10:4-6** *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

II. QUALITY IS ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT THAN QUANTITY.

- A. 32,000 fighters would have put up a great battle, but how many casualties would they suffer?
- B. So a test was given to see who would be the best fighters.
 1. The first test had to do with fear. **v. 3** *Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' " And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.*
 2. The final test had to do with awareness of the enemy. **v. 5** *And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."*
- C. As a result, 300 were found to be the chosen army. From 32,000 down to 300. That's less than 1%.
- D. It's the quality of the people, not how many there are. It's not how big a church is because small churches can do just as much if the power and presence of God is there. **Romans 8:31**
What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

III. OBEDIENCE IS ALWAYS MORE IMPORTANT THAN REBELLION.

- A. God then ordered three pieces of weaponry: torches, pitchers, and trumpets. How would you like to go to war against ISIS with those kinds of weapons?
- B. The 300 didn't argue, they simply obeyed. **Judges 7:8, 15-25*****
- C. You see, the battle was the Lord's, not Israel's. As a result, not one Jew perished.

D. We face so many battles during our lifetime. Instead of trying to win them by our own power, we need to rely upon God's power. We need to remember the words of Jahaziel to the nation of Judah. **2 Chronicles 20:15** *And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.*

Conclusion:

1. What battles are you facing? Health issues, marriage issues, family issues, money issues, sin issues?
2. Whatever the battles, the same God that brought victory to Israel that day is still on His throne and can bring victory to you.
3. Just be willing to obey Him in all things.