

Brave Heart

(Courage in a World of Compromise)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, June 27/28, 2015

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“Downside of Success” Judges 8:1-10:5

Gideon goes from cowardly (Judges 6) to courageous (Judges 7) to cocky (Judges 8). Gideon is a good leader who goes bad (rancid)...he never becomes an evil man, per se; he just spoils and ruins his ministry and his kids in the process leading the Israelites astray.

Judges 8:1-9 Criticism & contempt against Gideon

Vv10-12, 18-21 Gideon captures and kills the two Midianite leaders.

Vv13-17 The cities of Succoth and Peniel are severely punished for refusing to help Gideon's troops.

Verses 22-23 The grateful Israelites ask Gideon to be their King but he refuses.

Vv24-27, 33-35 Gideon asks for gold from the spoil and makes an ephod that becomes an idol for Gideon and the rest of the Israelites.

Vv28-32 The Land is at peace for 40 years the rest of Gideon's life. Gideon has many wives, one concubine and father's many children.

How do I know Success has gone to my Head?

- 1) I am working for my identity rather than from my identity in Christ. Judge 6:12
- 2) My prayer, Bible study and consulting with other Christians is sporadic. Judges 7:15
- 3) I tend to either cower (vv1-4) or tower (vv5-9) around certain people.
- 4) I become terribly bitter and revengeful toward anyone who stands in the way of my success. Vv13-17; Eph4:26-27; Heb12:15
- 5) I desperately promote myself because I am glory hungry rather than satisfied in God, living for His glory. Vv18-21
- 6) I forget that my salvation, sanctification, strength in tough times and satisfaction in life are all by God's amazing grace. V23, 34-35
- 7) I substitute myself for God rather than to be a faithful and humble pointer to Him. V27 I need this person to be complete or if this person needs me I'll be complete.

8) I live a lifestyle of materialistic excess and waste my valuable time. Vv24-27, 29-31

Judges 9:1-6 Gideon's son from His concubine, Ambimelech becomes the self-appointed King after murdering all but one of his 70 half brothers.

Vv7-21 Ambimelech's only surviving half brother denounces him through a parable calling Him a “bramble” bush & rebukes those who follow him.

Vv22-56 Ambimelech goes on the warpath to destroy those who don't support him ending with his death.

Between vv8:34-9:57 God is not mentioned at all by his personal covenant name, the LORD. The narrator lifts the curtain of human affairs to show us a glimpse of what God was doing.

Verse 23-24, 56-57

What is the Remedy?

- 1) God delays His judgment for repentance but will never deny judgment. 2Pet3:9
- 2) Our greatest problem isn't out there, but in our own hearts.

Judge 10:1-5 The people have completely abandoned God, yet by His grace He sends them Tola & Jair to rescue them from themselves.

- 3) We need the true and better Judge and King Jesus. Nothing satisfies more than living for His Glory! Luke4:5-8; Mark10:45

Growing Notes

- 1) Why do you think success tends to go to our head and failure goes to our heart (Pro30:5-6)? When have you been the closest to God: During times of success (pleasure) or failure (pain)? Explain.
- 2) Read & skim over Judges 8:1-10:5 using summary statements of verses in sermon notes. Review the statements under “How do I Know Success Has Gone to My Head” with corresponding verses. Which one(s) are most helpful? Explain.
- 3) Review the statements under “What is the Remedy” with corresponding verses. What would you say is the remedy to keeping success from going to your head and failure from going to your heart?
- 4) Why do you think that sin is what we do when we are not satisfied with Christ (Ps51:12)? What are some things you can do to keep your heart satisfied in Christ (Rom12:11; 2Pet3:18)? Pray for db leaders & church family to be and stay courageously satisfied in Christ.