

Three Kinds of Men - Which Kind Are You?

Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

A. Communists have claimed that they would be victorious over capitalists because they better follow the principles of Gideon's three hundred.

B. There are three types of men in Gideon's army and the question becomes in which group we would fit.

II. Background. (Judges 6:6)

A. The children of Israel faced great spiritual poverty because of the Midianites and they cried out to God.

B. God selected Gideon with no military training to lead battle against the Midianites.

1. The Midianite army was massive and Gideon knew this.

2. Gideon tested what God told him by laying out a fleece and telling God to meet certain conditions with it to prove that the word was from Him.

3. After God confirmed it, Gideon tested the word again to reaffirm, and God reassured him by confirming it.

C. Gideon assembled his army.

1. At the request of God Gideon told all those who had no heart for the battle to depart and two-thirds went home. (Deuteronomy 20)

2. Gideon told those who were not wise enough to keep their guard at the sight of water to depart at the request of God. 9700 were told to depart.

3. Three hundred were left for the battle. It appeared one-sided.

III. Group 1 - 22,000.

A. They had no heart for battle. To have no heart for the battle is to have no battle for Jesus Christ.

1. There is a throne in the heart which either self occupies or Christ. The one not on the throne of the heart is on the cross.

2. The seed that falls on the good heart is fruitful. (Psalm 119:10; Luke 8:15)

B. The Word of God, prayer and spending time with a person who has the heart one is looking for are key to developing this heart.

IV. Group 2 - 9700.

A. They had no skill for the battle even though they had the heart.

1. They were courageous and not afraid.
2. Yet when their appetites became heavy they followed them. (Job 15:16)
3. The saddest day is when a man comes to face his sin. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

B. They were just as bad off in fighting the battle as the first group.

V. Group 3 - 300.

A. They had the heart and the skill for battle.

B. The attack.

1. Seeing that God would deliver the Midianites through a dream, Gideon charged his army to be courageous in the battle.
2. Gideon decided to attack on the mid-watch and he broke his pitcher with all his men following suit.
3. The Israelites blew horns and held torches making the Midianites assume that there were more men in the dark than there actually were.
4. The Midianites fought each other being unable to see their enemies.
5. The Midianite army was defeated by people that were not there. Not an Israelite was harmed.

C. Application: the things the 300 did.

1. They blew their trumpets.
 - a. This is a symbol of the Christian's joy.
 - b. We cannot do anything else without possession of this.
2. They broke the vessels.
 - a. There is a release of light through broken vessels. (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)
 - b. It is likened to the Carnegie leadership session where men are guided to come out of their shells.
3. God is looking for front men to stand in their place.

VI. Conclusion.

A. We need to produce men with a heart and skill for the battle.

B. There needs to be a balance, but the heart must come first.

Application questions.

1. Explain the three types of Christians as illustrated by Gideon's army. What is it that makes one transition from the second kind to the third?

2. Why is it that skill is necessary for the Christian? Is skill limited to the ability to deal with sin? What do you think?

3. What camp of Gideon's army are you in? Do you need to develop a heart for the battle? Do you need to progress to develop some skill for the fight? What will you do to work on the area that needs development this week?
