

Gideon

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I. Introduction.

A. Parents are a special breed of people—they are the president and vice-president of your fan club.

1. They want the best for you and they think they know what that is.
2. When they find out that what you are doing is fulfilling to you, they will usually come around to supporting you in what you do.
3. When we love Christ more than family, objects, or career, He will give us the career that is most satisfying to us.

B. Conditions are as they were—the Bible is still relevant to us. (Romans 15:4)

1. Many throughout history have worried about the state of the times thinking that things would not get better.
2. Things, however, did get better.

II. Gideon and his valiant three-hundred. (Judges 6)

A. There are three kinds of persons. Which kind are you?

B. God selected the farmer Gideon as the one that He would use to liberate Israel.

1. Gideon tested what God told him by laying out a sheep skin and telling God to meet certain conditions with it to prove that the word was from Him.
2. After God confirmed it, Gideon tested the word again to reaffirm, and God reassured him by confirming it.

C. Gideon assembled his army.

1. Gideon told all those who had no heart for the battle to depart. (Deuteronomy 20)
 - a. These were those who had no heart for the battle.
 - b. To have no heart for the battle is to have no heart for Jesus Christ.
 - c. In every heart there are two rooms—one contains a throne and one contains a cross. When self is on the throne, Christ is on the cross and vice versa.
 - d. Ten thousand were left, and God told Gideon that he had too many.

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.

a. 9700 were told to depart.

b. They had a heart for the battle, but not the skill to go into spiritual warfare.

c. We are diverted by responding to one of the seven deadly sins.

d. Only a small remnant was left.

3. The three hundred that were left were all that God needed to defeat the Midianites.

D. The attack.

1. Gideon decided to attack on the mid-watch.

2. Gideon broke his pitcher and all his men followed suit.

3. There was confusion after the Israelites blew the horns and the Midianites fought each other being unable to see their enemies.

4. Not an Israelite was harmed, and the Midianites were chased.

5. The three-hundred had both the heart and the skill.

E. The bugle is a picture of the Christian's joy.

F. The pitcher is a image of the need to be broken. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

G. God wants front men and women and he will fill in between.

III. Having both heart and skill for the battle.

A. God uses this kind of person.

B. It is probably mostly a heart thing, but skill is important too.

C. This skill comes from the equipping of the ministry.

1. The parable of the sewer teaches that everyone is responsible for the condition of their own heart.

2. Skills come from conferences, workshops, and time spent with other people—we buy into a package deal that comes from the ministry philosophy.

3. The heart of “the package” is the word of God.

IV. Conclusion.

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 proceed further into the next step this week?
