

STANDING IN YOUR PLACE

JUDGES 6 - 7

Text: Judges 7:21

(Judges 7:21) "And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled."

Introduction:

Midian had become Israel's oppressor, because they had sinned and God allowed them to experience chastening for seven years. Times were so bad that people were living in dens and caves. Their harvests had been destroyed.

But God chose a man to be their leader and to once again become victorious. Never forget God always chooses a man to carry out His work. God never blesses a ministry, but rather God calls a man and blesses him and in turn the ministry is blessed.

In choosing Gideon and his army God chose to only use a small portion of all the people equipped for battle. You say this doesn't make much sense. But God knew that if all would have been involved in the battle that they again would have become puffed up and forgot all about the blessings of God.

(Judges 7:2) "And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me."

Notice the characteristic of these 300 hundred men that went to battle.

1. THEY WERE COURAGEOUS MEN (VS 3)

(Judges 7:3) "Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand."

A. Whosoever if fearful

1. Fear is the opposite of faith
2. Courage and faith are friends.
3. Courage and the Christian life
 - a. It takes courage to confront the Tempter.
 - b. It takes courage to witness

- c. It takes courage to do right
- d. It takes courage to stand alone.

These men stayed when 22,000 were afraid.

2. THEY WERE CAREFUL MEN (VSS 6-7)

(Judges 7:6-7) "And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. {7} And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place."

A. Strange test to be in Gideon's army

- 1. Choosing those who lap water like a dog
- 2. Rejecting those who bow down to drink

B. The majority (9,700) plunged their faces into the water.

- 1. Were more concerned with water than watching

2. Quenching their thirst was more important than victory

C. 300 lifted the water in their hands.

1. Lapped and looked at the same time
2. Watching was more important than drinking water.

(Matthew 26:41) "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

(1 Corinthians 16:13) "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

(1 Thessalonians 5:6) "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

(2 Timothy 4:5) "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

D. Good soldiers are careful

1. We are in a life and death struggle every day.
2. Our enemy is crafty and strong

3. THEY WERE COMMITTED MEN (VSS 8-22)

A. They were committed to Gideon

1. Stayed with him when others left
2. Didn't fear being a minority.

B. They were committed to God.

1. Accepted their strange weapons.
2. Rejected the idea of an impossible task.
3. Expected to win with trumpets, pitchers, and lamps.

Close:

The call is being sounded for courageous, careful, committed soldiers.