

Gideon - It's Difficult to Finish Well

(Judges 8:4-35)

I. Two Cities Refuse to Render Aid to Gideon and His Men (vv. 4-9)

A. Succoth and Penuel

B. Gideon rightfully requested aid

C. Leaders of both cities refused to provide food for Gideon and his troops

D. Gideon promises retribution

1. Showed Gideon's faith and confidence in the victory God would provide
2. Provided the leaders of the cities an opportunity to repent and change their minds

II. Gideon and His Army Complete Their Mission

A. The capture of the Midianite kings (vv. 10-12)

B. Gideon Enforces Judgment on Succoth and Penuel (vv. 13-17)

C. Gideon Enforces Judgment on the Midianite kings (vv. 18-21)

III. Gideon's Life After Delivering Israel

A. Gideon is offered a kingship over Israel (vv. 22-27)

1. Gideon denied the kingship with his speech

2. Gideon acquiesced to kingship with his actions
3. Gideon created an idol for Israel and a trap for his family

B. God grants peace to the land (v. 28)

C. Gideon's personal life after delivering Israel (vv. 29-32)

1. Gideon's children
2. Gideon's wives
3. Gideon's death

D. Life in Israel after Gideon's death (vv. 33-35)

1. Return to Baal worship
2. Loss of loyalty to Gideon's family

Lessons:

- 1) We should not get disillusioned by the failures of God's people.
- 2) We must recognize our own tendencies to make ephods and to spurn the gifts of God.
- 3) We must do the things God calls us to do so that we can finish well.