

UNLIKELY LEADERS WITH AMAZING POWER

"Not Finishing Well"

Judges 8:21-35

INTRODUCTION:

1. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

2. Gideon could have become discouraged after such a huge victory over the Midianites when:

- a) Ephraim criticized him for not calling them to help in battle.
- b) He was exhausted from pursuing 15,000 Midianites who escaped.
- c) People were indifferent about helping feed his men and didn't want to get involved.

3. He could have gotten discouraged but did not. But instead it went to his head.

- a) **Romans 11:20**
- b) **1 Timothy 6:17**
- c) **2 Timothy 3:4**

FOUR NEGATIVE ASPECTS THAT CAN RESULT FROM SUCCESS

I. BE CAREFUL OF HIGHMINDEDNESS

1. The word literally means "*to wrap in smoke*" - to be arrogant

2. **Judges 8:18**

- a) "As you are, so were they"
- b) "Every one of them resembled the son of a king"
- c) Royalty!!!

3. **Proverbs 26:28**

4. **Proverbs 29:5**

A. IT INSPIRES CONCEIT

1. **6:15**

2. **8:1-3**

- a) "*What have I done now in comparison to you?*"

1) The credit for all his victories should have gone to the Lord alone.

B. IT INSPIRES FALSE CONFIDENCE

1. 8:22

2. *Jeremiah 17:5*

3. Conceit can turn confidence in God to confidence in self.

C. IT WILL ALSO ERODE CONVICTION

1. **QUESTION:** *What are your convictions?*

a) A conviction is a fixed or firm belief!!

2. When a person becomes consumed with self - their convictions will erode.

3. 8:24-27

II. BE CAREFUL OF USURPING AUTHORITY

A. A POSITION THAT BELONGS ONLY TO GOD

1. Vs 22

a) *"Then the men of Israel said to Gideon"*

b) *"rule over us"*

2. Vs 22 Why?

a) *"For you have saved us from the hand of Midian"*

B. MAKING BAD CHOICES

1. Vs 22

a) *"you and your son and your grandson also"*

C. ALTERING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

1. I believe there are 3 Wills God has for your life.

a) *His Perfect Will*

b) *His Directive Will*

c) *His Permissive Will*

2. **Judges 6:14**

3. Remember the reason of Israel's existence.

a) *Genesis 12:1-3*

b) *Revelation 7:9-10*

4. **1 Corinthians 15:33**

5. **2 Tim 4:10**

6. **1 Corinthians 9:24**

III. BE CAREFUL OF MISPLACED AMBITION

A. RESPONSE TO INVITATION

1. **Vs 22-23**

2. Gideon refused to be their king.

B. RELIGIOUS REQUEST

1. **Vs 24**

a) "*every one of you give me the earrings from his spoil.*"

C. THE REASON

1. **Vs 25-26**

2. Approximately \$150,000 value.

3. **Vs 27**

a) "*and Gideon made an ephod of it*"

4. Gideon was pluralistic!!! He wanted to Worship God and at the same time Worship himself.

5. **Vs 27b-28**

CONCLUSION: The end result was this.

1. Gideon was **DISGRACED**.
 - a) **Vs 29-31**
 - b) Gideon committed infidelity.
 - c) **9:1-5**

2. He was **FORGOTTEN**
 - a) **Vs 32-35**

3. He was **DISTRACED**
 - a) **Proverbs 16:18**
 - b) **1 Corinthians 10:12**
 - 1) **Deuteronomy 4:23**