2Thess #172

The minority is often what carries the majority.

Let us keep Lisa in Carmel, California in prayer.

Please open back up in Judges chapter 7 today.

We have seen the calling of young Gideon into the plan of GOD. We noted his predicament, concerning the wicked, environment he lived in. Even his lack of faith which would be far from perfect for leadership, then taking into account his skill is only as a farmer.

Yet despite all of that, Gideon is being lifted up and chosen by GOD.

/When the Believer maintains faith, even a flickering of faith and they have roots within their soul of accurate Bible Doctrine they can be used by GOD in magnificent ways. God is not seeking perfection; HE looks for availability and a true desire for intimacy with HIM. When the opportunity does arise, that Bel must focus on clarity and balance within their life which needs to be centered upon the WORD of God.\

The fact is we all go through times of flickering faith…weakness, failure and sin. We all end up in predicaments that are opposed to BD.

Yet it does not have to spiral us farther away from GOD - but instead should drive us closer to HIM.

There are points in every Christian’s life that they will be challenged to take the next step…challenged to build upon their faith.

You will never be ready if your life is consistently out of order and your priorities are skewed.

Even after the victory in his hometown as he overcame the evil grip of the BAAL system, Gideon still had doubts.

Yet he began to align himself under the authority of the LORD, which is all GOD is asking of us, to get serious with HIM.

/Because Gideon adjusted to the justice and the plan of God and heeded the call, this placed him in the destiny GOD had ordained for him in eternity past. If Gideon refused to make the adjustments and allowed his volition to go negative, GOD would have called upon another Israelite similar to Gideon for this exact mission. Someone who has true love, mercy and operates from grace will set the table for you, yet never force you to eat from it.\

Now as we noted last lesson, Gideon’s positive volition had brought forth the positive consequence of awaking those in his circle of family and friends to the depth of evil gripping them in the BAAL system.

This is a positive action, creating a positive reaction. This is a positive decision, bringing forth a positive consequence – the ripple effect would touch the majority of the nation of Israel.

 REPEAT

The preincarnate Christ, already assured Gideon of the victory and yet we still see his flickering faith.

/Jud 6:36 Then Gideon said to God, “**If You are going to save Israel through me,** as You have spoken, 37 behold, I am putting a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. **If there is dew on the fleece only**, and it is dry on all the ground, **then I will know that You will save Israel through me, as You have spoken**.”

It is a signature of immaturity to seek signs or miracles. Yet in the rare case of such great physical danger, praying for extra guidance can be very wise.\

Keep in mind this is the dispensation of Israel – a time of prophets and miraculous signs.

The problem Gideon had, was he kept asking for just one more sign, one more vision or one more miraculous event to ensure the victory.

/God fulfilled the sign once, and Gideon said that would be enough for him. Yet he went back on his word after God fulfilled the first sign. Gideon kept seeking assurance of victory. Yet the LORD was still merciful and gracious to Gideon, because of the significance of the danger and the evil, enemy just ahead of him. This is an outstanding example of God’s gracious patience, mercy and love with a troubled child in the face of overwhelming odds.\

The more a Christian can grow inside the plan of GOD the more muscle they put on their faith. The stronger the faith, the more of a calm assurance and confidence in the victories of this temporal walk.

Jud 7:1 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him got up early, and camped beside the spring of Harod; and the camp of Midian was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

Though Gideon would need to be bumped up in his faith by certain signs or even dreams, he never took steps backward from the first point when TLJC summoned him under the oak tree.

Forward motion in the plan of GOD…even baby steps, is better than backward motion or becoming stagnant.

The stagnant Bel is actually heading backward, not standing still.

/[Jdg 7:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/7/2/s_218002) And the LORD said to Gideon, “**The people who are with you are too many for Me to hand Midian over to them, otherwise Israel would become boastful,** saying, ‘My own power has saved me.’

Gideon had 32,000 men. The Midianites with the Amalekites were at least 135,000 strong. Not to mention the experience and ferocity of those 135,000 men.\

God is about too micro-manage the leadership of Gideon for two reasons. One is Gideon is still very weak in faith, with no combat experience.

Second, is that GOD has to show HIS people that reliance upon HIM and staying in HIS word is the only true victory.

The Exodus generation that entered the Promised Land with Joshua and Caleb failed to wipe the land clean of the seeds of Satan.

In fact, for nearly 250 years they had instead allowed demonic influence into the nation of Israel…sleeping with enemy so to speak.

Consequences follow when we reject the calling of GOD, part of that rejection starts, by refusing to submit yourself to the accurate study of the WORD.

Attacks for seven years by the Midianites and Amalekites were allowed by GOD, as a wake-up call and divine discipline.

When we push far enough away from God, we face self-induced misery…

Followed by divine discipline.

/[Jdg 7:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/7/3/s_218003) “Now therefore come, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘**Whoever is afraid and worried, is to return and leave Mount Gilead**.’” So **twenty-two thousand** from the people returned, but ten thousand remained.

Weak and immature Bels, often do more damage than good, when serious Bels are called into ministries and heading into maturity.\

Those whom you surround yourself with matters.

There is usually a minority who stay the course into real SM.

/Most Bels enjoy having one foot in world and one foot in the plan of GOD. When the pressure to truly grow and press on to higher grounds of spirituality begin, you will see the Christian herd around you thin out. The price of real freedom, growth and victory is often too high for the common Believer. Their time, talent and treasure dedicated to personal pleasure and cosmic system victories outweighs their desire for Spiritual Maturity.\

The truth of our battle for freedom here in America, during our 1776 revolution was that only about 30% of eligible men served against the British invasion.

Some historians account for far less than that – either way, it was not the majority which would have been upwards of 60 -70%.

Many switched sides out of fear and comfort. This is where we got the term -*Turn coats* from.

The majority usually do not stand firm in times of adversity…get use to it.

The majority screamed crucify HIM when Pontious Pilate gave a choice between our Lord and Savior and Barabbas the mafia boss.

 REPEAT

The majority are usually wrong.

/Mat 7:13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and **there are many who enter through it**.

Mat 10:34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; **I did not come to bring peace, but a sword**.\

These are the words of TLJC…who went on to tell us;

Mat 10:35 - I came to TURN A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; 36 and A PERSON’S ENEMIES *WILL BE* THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

/Mat 10:37“The one who loves father or mother more than Me **is not worthy of Me**; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 “And **the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me**. 39 “The one who has found his life will lose it, and **the one who has lost his life on My account will find it.**\

You will never find your true destiny and becoming the person GOD called you to be, in this temporal walk, until you give yourself over fully to Christ.

If you cut and run when the adversity pops up, or your comfort level gets challenged, like the 22,000 who left Gideon before the battle – you will remain a loser Believer.

Never truly knowing who you were designed to be IN CHRIST.

 REPEAT

[Jdg 7:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/7/4/s_218004) Then the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there. So it shall be that he of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go with you; but everyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

This was probably the Jordan river which Mount Gilead sits next to, in-between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee.

Now we see the issue of those who are lukewarm and disorderly.

Compared to those Bels who are prepared, alert and ready for spiritual warfare.

[Jdg 7:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/7/5/s_218005) So he brought the people down to the water. Then the LORD said to Gideon, “You shall put everyone who laps the water with his tongue as a dog laps in one group, and everyone who kneels down to drink *in another.*”

Those men who immediately took a knee and put their face to the water had no concern for enemies in their periphery.

They lacked discernment, preparation and self-control.

Therefore, these are the types of soldiers that either become quick causalities on the battlefield or they panic under fire.

Either way they ensure problems and distractions for the prepared warriors.

God expects the right thing done in the right – certainly for the advancing spiritual warrior.

/[Jdg 7:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/7/6/s_218006) Now the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was **three hundred men**; but **all the rest of the people kneeled down to drink water.**

Out of 32,000 only 300 were truly prepared and advanced enough to go forward into God’s plan for victory.\

Never be in shock and awe at those who peel away from truth.

The majority rarely stay the course and stand firm in the face of trouble and challenges.

If it is not comfortable, fun, emotional and always encouraging, the majority fall away.

When you present BD as the means for spiritual training and repetition… you find the majority will lose interest quickly. (ears tickled…2Tim 4:3)

/[Jdg 7:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/7/7/s_218007) And the LORD said to Gideon, **“I will save you with the three hundred men**who lapped, and will hand the Midianites over to you; so have all the *other* people go, each man to his home.”

God uses the least to overcome the most. God uses the weak to shame the powerful. When the weak and the least recognize the power is IN CHRIST and get serious with GOD – they are used in incredible ways.\

The number 300 used dozens of times in Biblical text represents strength, divine purpose and unity.

Jump down a few verses in closing – there are too many solid principles here and also in Nehemiah, which we will look at next message, for us to rush this series.

God allowed Gideon to spy on his enemies and overhear a pertinent conversation between enemy soldiers.

Gideon overheard a prophetic dream which would build his confidence even further.

/God’s plans and God’s ways brings the victory – not our human viewpoint or the power of the flesh. With 300 (strength, divine purpose and unity) prepared men, trumpets, clay pots, swords and torches - Gideon would be given an impossible victory over 135,000 hardened warriors. When we walk inside the plan of God, in compliance to HIS word, we are going to reach a victory in HIS timing, in HIS way.\

/Jdg 7:19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle night watch, when they had just posted the watch; and **they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers** that were in their hands.

The trumpet, a symbol of GOD’s deliverance and military might. The oil for the torches/lanterns represented the power of God the HS. The clay pitchers point to the shattering of the plans of mankind.\

Clay often represents humanity – molded and created by GOD.

The middle watch was midnight - which would mean only a handful of soldiers would have been on night watch.

The majority were sleeping.

/Jud 7: 20 When the three units blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers, they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing, and shouted, “**A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”**

The Believer working for the plan of GOD, fully obedient to HIS word shares in the victory. Because God is generous and gracious and wants us to partake in all HIS glory.\

[Jdg 7:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/7/21/s_218021) And each stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled.

The end result was chaos and panic and the majority of the soldiers in the center of the camp killed each other. While the three hundred Israeli soldiers began to slay the others – sending the remaining running in fear.

Four things that God used to prepare Gideon in this leadership role:

/First, Gideon met the preincarnate Christ, having intimacy with HIM. Second, he committed himself to following Yahweh no matter what. Third, he obeyed the words/command of the Lord by taking a public stand for truth, relying on HIS words and promises. Fourth, the Holy Spirit gave Gideon power, not the flesh.\

When the people God calls respond positively, by committing themselves to Him and standing in truth, He strengthens their faith so He can use them in even greater ways. Human ability & human IQ do not matter.