**Something Worth Fighting For**

(Judges 7:5 KJV)

*So he brought down the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.*

I

n the text we glance and glean the life of a man name Gideon. Gideon was a courageous man of God who had torn down the altars of Baal— which was the god of the uncircumcised and unbelievers who worshiped idol gods. Now trouble is on the horizon because the Midianites and Amlekites were very angry with him. They wanted to execute Gideon but God placed his hands upon Gideon and soundly protected him. Then God’s call came to Gideon. And as like the traditions of many of us, Gideon didn’t feel worthy to be used of the Lord. *And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house*. (Judges 6:15 KJV) So he put out the fleece to make sure that he was understanding God’s call.

It was time to fight against the enemy and Gideon had 32,000 men that were ready to go to war against the Midianites in whom had 135,000 men to fight against God's people—and they are getting ready to attack the land. But God said to Gideon, "You Got To Many". He didn’t want Israel to brag about their accomplishments. He wanted to be the one to receive praise. It is a good picture of Salvation. We are not saved by works because if we were we could brag about it. Salvation by grace gives us only one person to praise, and that's Jesus Christ.

Every time Israel went into battle the outcome was determined by one thing. It was not whether they were armed heavily enough, had a big enough army, or knew proper military strategy. Every time Israel went into battle with obedience to God, they won. And every time they were disobedient, they lost. So, if we are ever in any battle and we are to win, we must have God on our side. We have all heard the Military commercial “we’re looking for a few good men.”

The Midianites were severely oppressing Israel; raiding their crops and destroying their homes—insomuch so that the Israelites were hiding in caves and hiding their food. And because they began to cry to God, He was ready to send them a deliverer. This patriarch again was Gideon who was God's prime selection as a courageous and ambitious man.

When the Midianites and their allies anxiously again attempted to invaded the land of Israel, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he gathered together an army from the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali.

Gideon sought confirmation from God that He was on his side, Gideon asked for another sign. He asked that the dew should fall on a fleece spread upon the threshing floor, while the ground all around should be dry. In the morning the fleece was so wet that Gideon twisted out of it a bowl of water.

The next night the miracle was reversed.  The ground around the fleece was saturated with water and the fleece perfectly dry (Judges 6:36-40 KJV).  Gideon was now convinced that God had their back to win this fight against the enemy. So he got ready to fight the enemy—and in preparing God made notion that he had to reduced the quantity of men to fight. God was up to something!

1. **The Test of Defeat**

(Judges 7:3 KJV)

*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.*

Here is Gideon a talented farmer not a trained warrior getting ready to prepare for war and deliverance. The Israelites have been in seven years of bondage under the Midianites which brought Israel to its lowest level. Instead of "riding on the high places" they were hiding in caves! The Israelites were not even allowed to harvest their grain, which explains why we find Gideon hiding as well like the rest of them.

**As Gideon and his men go to war against the Midianites. Gideon recruited 32,000 men to fight.** The Midianites had an army of 135,000. And Gideon was outnumbered four-to-one. But God said, **“You don’t need as many as you have, because this is**MY**battle.** So you will need to send home everyone who’s afraid to fight.” Twenty-two thousand faithless troops went home, leaving Gideon with 10,000 soldiers.  Now 135,000 to 10,000 seems like a very bad situation. But God's power does not need numbers.