

UNLIKELY LEADERS WITH AMAZING POWER

"What Are You Made Of?"

Judges 8:1-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. Because of his faith, God orchestrated an overwhelming victory against the overwhelming odds, of the Midianites and the Amalekites.
2. But Gideon knew the most dangerous time for a leader is right on the heels of Victory!!!
3. *There's nothing so fatal to character as half-finished tasks.*
4. Vs 10
5. Judges 8:4

THREE WAYS DISCOURAGEMENT TRYS TO GET US.

I. THROUGH CRITICISM

1. Vs 1
 - a) *"and they accused him fiercely"*
2. Why do people do that?

A. BECAUSE OF JEALOUSY

1. Ephraim was the largest and most important of Israel's 12 tribes.
 - a) The tabernacle was located in Ephraim.
 - 1) **1 Chronicles 12:30**
2. **Joshua 17:14**
3. The issue with Ephraim was pride!!!
4. QUOTE: *"When your 'self' looms up great before your own eyes, there will no longer be any way for you to rejoice in what God has done for others."*
5. **Very Important:** Satan works overtime to sow disunity.
 - a) Is there disunity in your home? Satan and Pride is at the ROOT!!
 - b) Is there disunity in the church? " " " " "
 - c) Is there disunity in our country? " " " " "

6. **SATAN** accomplishes his purposes through **PRIDE, HURT FEELINGS,** differences of opinions.

a) **FACT!!!** Satan loves to see us divided.

7. **Judges 8:1**

a) "*they accused him fiercely*"

8. **Psalm 64:1-4**

B. BUT GIDEON WAS SELFLESS

1. **Vs 2-3**

2. Gideon knew how to calm the situation.

a) **Proverbs 15:1**

3. Gideon knew how to control his tongue.

a) **Proverbs 16:32**

II. THROUGH FATIGUE

1. **Vs 4**

a) "*exhausted yet pursuing*"

2. **WOW!!!**

a) Anyone who achieves anything of eternal worth must win the war of exhaustion.

3. **HOW???**

A. REMEMBER YOUR CALLING

1. **Judges 6:14**

2. **WOW!!!** Whatever you do in life, if you aren't sure that it's God's plan for your life, when it gets tough you won't survive.

B. REMEMBER YOUR PRESENT VICTORIES

1. **7:21**

C. REMEMBER YOUR FUTURE PROMISES

1. Vs 10
2. 15,000 Midianites were still at large.
3. In spite of Criticism and Fatigue, Gideon was determined to finish well.

III. THROUGH INDIFFERENCE

1. Indifference is that lack of concern in others.
 - a) *"That's your problem!"*
 - b) *"We don't want to get involved!!"*
2. However Gideon is determined to complete God's assignment!!!!!!!

A. INDIFFERENCE CAN BE ROOTED IN FEAR

1. Vs 5-6
 - a) *"If we help you, and you don't catch them, and they find out we helped you. We're dead!"*

B. INDIFFERENCE CAN BE ROOTED IN UNBELIEF

1. Vs 7-9
2. **Wow!!!** Because you won't help us in this time of need I will deal with you later.
3. Vs 15-16
4. **WOW!!!** All I can say is that it must of hurt!!!