

Who Is My King? – Do you still hear from God?

– Judges 8

- I. Beginning of Gideon's fall (Judges 7)
- II. 3 Signs of Gideon's falling away from God
 - 1. Handle criticism (v. 1-3)
 - 2. Handle rejections (v. 4-21)
 - 3. Handle popularity (v. 22-27)

I. Beginning of Gideon's fall

At the peak of Gideon's faith, he led 300 men to defeated 135, 000 men. After, it's possible that Gideon began to focus more on himself than God particularly the three times his name was mentioned during battle in Judges 7.

- a. A Midianite said "the sword of Gideon" will come to overturn the Midianite camp. (Judges 7:13-14)
- b. Israelites slogan, "For the Lord and for Gideon." (Judges 7:15-18)
- c. During the attack, the Israelites shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon." (Judges 7:19-20)

After Gideon received victory of Israelites' enemies, Gideon could begin to entertain the thought that he is a true hero.

- II. 3 Signs of Gideon's falling away from God
 - 1. Handle criticism (v. 1-3)

Gideon did not consult God and he did not tell the truth. Gideon used political wisdom to counter the criticism and question.

The Ephraimites asked Gideon why didn't he include them in the battle. Instead of answered it truthfully that God did not include them. Gideon could have said that when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he blew the trumpet summoning people to follow him, the Ephraimites were not on the list. (Judges 6:34, 35)

Does Gideon's answer come from God?

- 2. Handle rejections (v. 4-21)

Men of Sukkoth and men of Peniel would not lend out food to help Gideon and his men when they were pursuing the kings of the Midianites.

Gideon said to the men of Sukkoth, when I came back in victory, I will take desert thorns and briars to tear your flesh.

Gideon also said to the men of Peniel, when I came back in victory, I will tear down your tower.

Gideon kept his words. He hit the people of Sukkoth with thorns, took down the tower of Peniel and also killed the people in it.

Gideon received rejection with anger.

Once again Gideon did not consult God and humble himself.

3. Handle popularity (v. 22-27)

The Israelites wanted Gideon, his sons and grandsons to be their ruler. Gideon turned that down, but have one request to collect gold for him to make an idol and put it in his town. The rest of the Israelites prostituted themselves there.

When Gideon was asked to be the ruler, again, Gideon did not consult God. Since Gideon did not consult God on the above matter, he obviously did not consult God about asking for gold.

Only a king would ask for gold to make an idol. He collected 20kg of gold. Gideon was being a hypocrite. On one hand he said he is not going to be the ruler. On the other hand, he behaved like one.

“Who is my king?” is the title for this sermon series. God is not Gideon’s king for sure. Gideon was his own king.

Gideon also had 70 sons, many wives. He also named a son born from his concubine “Abimelek”. In Hebrew, “Abimelek” means “my father is king”. Although he turned down being a ruler, a king, Gideon behaved like one.

Summary:

Gideon at the pinnacle of his faith, no longer talk to God and as a result no longer hear from the Lord. His fall began when he put himself more important than God. His success only came from the fact that the Lord was with him. Without the Lord, he was worse than before he was called.

Jesus was a type saviour like Gideon but Jesus put God first. We can look at the Jesus’ three temptations and they foreshadowed the cross Jesus will eventually face. Jesus did not act on his own interests but the interest of the Father.