

Mid-Week Devotion



Giving Credit

Read Judges 7:1-8

...My own power has delivered me.

The story of Gideon is just one of the many times in which God chose for Himself an unsuspecting leader. Gideon was the youngest in a family that was so insignificant that it didn't even get an honorable mention in the scriptures. One day the angel of the Lord appeared and declared that He had chosen Gideon to deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Sound familiar, remember Moses, how about David? It would seem that God has a thing for choosing the smallest, the weakest, the totally unbelievable to fight His battles. But perhaps that is the point, for people like these could never be mistaken for gods; they were just ordinary people with limited skills that never seemed to be equipped for the task that God was calling them to. In other words, people just like you and me.

Now Gideon had a tough battle ahead of him. His adversary was so great in number that scripture simply says they were as numerous as the sand on the seashore. Gideon's troops, numbering 32,000 were needless to say, outnumbered. But God wasn't satisfied with the odds, so He decides to even the playing field. So God, through a series of tests, erodes Gideon's army from 32,000 to just 300! I suppose in God's economy, 300 against a number so great it couldn't be counted, is a fair fight! It wasn't enough that Gideon was the runt of the family mind you, or that his family was the least among the tribe of Manasseh, God wanted to make absolutely sure no one could ever say that the victory was in anyway due to Gideon. It's no different for you.

When you look back over your life, how many times have you patted yourself on the back for your accomplishments? How many times have you given God all the credit? If you're like most, the score is most likely a bazillion you...300 God! When other people look at your successes, do they see God anywhere in the picture or just you? Why is it that when we fail, we are so quick to run to God asking why did you let this happen? But when we succeed, God gets little more than a thank you during our bedtime prayers. The reason God wanted the credit instead of Gideon wasn't because He wanted bragging rights at the next Divine Counsel meeting; it was because wherever we place the credit, our trust follows. When we look at those we admire and trust in our lives, do they tend to be successful people, people that seem to have it all together or are they those that seem to have no real skills of their own, those whose failures outnumber their successes?

Many of us golfers remember that after winning his second Open, Payne Stewart was asked to what he attributed his winning game. He replied, "God gave me the talent, so I could give Him the glory." However, what many don't know is that a fellow golfer, Lee Jensen was standing near and heard Payne's words. Lee would later say that it was hearing those words that led him to a relationship with Christ. The point isn't simply that God deserves the credit, we get that; the point is in giving God the credit for all to see. When we do this, we not only glorify the Savior, we help win the battle for the kingdom one soul at a time.

Pastor Ed