

Who and How God Uses Us Surprises Us! #3

God's Way To Victory – Judges 7

I. Preparing For Battle By Reduction VS 1-8

- A.** When it was obvious – he acted
- B.** Harod – the place of trembling
- C.** They could see the size of the enemy
- D.** You have too many men – 5-1
- E.** You would boast – nationalistic pride
- F.** All who are fearful and trembling can go home
 - 22,000 leave
 - 10,000 left 15-1
- G.** Still too many – I will sift them
- H.** The test –
 - How they drink from the stream
 - Face first – gone
 - Lapped from hand – stay
 - 300 left 500-1
- I.** With these 300 I will give you victory over the Midianites
- J.** My ways are not your ways

II. Giving Gideon Confidence or Making the Obvious Bigger VS 9-15

- A.** Tonight is the night!
- B.** Are you afraid?
- C.** Take a walk with me – bring your friend
- D.** They sneak in the camp
- E.** Even the Midianites have heard of Gideon
- F.** Barley bread crashes the tent – superstitious, omens
- G.** Now it's the Midianites who are afraid!
- H.** Gideon is strengthened, powerful
- I.** He worships

III. Attack At Midnight VS 16-22

- A.** Let's go now!
- B.** The plan -
 - Three sided attack
 - Trumpets
 - Shout

- Jars
- Torches
- Do what I do – follow me

- C.** The sword of the Lord and Gideon!
- D.** Panic, fear, they turn on each other, distrust, rebellion
- E.** They run
- F.** Israel kills them on the way
- G.** What a victory!

IV. Thoughts

- A.** When God's will takes us to places we've never been before that cause us doubts and fears, remember, one person with God is a majority. Little is much when God is in it! God's ways don't often make sense to us.
I Corinthians 1:26-28

"Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are"

- B.** Two things that keep us from being used by God:
 - One – being more afraid of what is out there than confident in God's power to use us in spite of it
 - 1.** That's why God always calls us to be courageous, an issue of the heart and faith
 - Two – taking unnecessary time with necessary things – you're only ready to act if you're focused on the task. Throughout the Bible the emphasis is always on "Today", never, "Let me finish this first" or "later" or "As soon as..."
- C.** The obstacles in front of us are more vulnerable than we think. Often when challenged they lose focus and break. God knows their weaknesses. If we will follow His will without fear and prepared to act He will give us victory.