

Pride & Pragmatism: The Flawed Leadership of Gideon

Judges 8:22-35 / Sunday, July 12, 2015



Introduction: Gideon's failures emphasize the shortcomings of human leadership, but point forward to the perfection of the ultimate Savior, Jesus Christ.

Two failures that demonstrate Gideon's flawed leadership:

Failure #1: Gideon's Semi-Refusal of a Royal Dynasty Was Rooted in Pride.

How did Gideon live like a king?

- Accumulated great wealth (v. 26)
- Made an ephod to consult God (v. 27)
- Had seventy sons (v. 30)
- Established a large harem (v. 30)
- Named a child "My Father is King" (*Abimelech*, v. 31)

Two Potential Sources of Pride Among Believers:

- Substantial Success
- Significant Sacrifice

Failure #2: Gideon Established A Spiritual Center Based On Pragmatism.

What is the ephod and why is it significant? (*Exodus 28:3-14*)

- The spiritual significance of the ephod was consecration before God.
- The practical purpose of the ephod was to gain revelation or insight from God.

Walking with the Spirit brings joy, victory and peace, but is experienced most profoundly in the drudgery of the daily living! (*Galatians 5:25*)

- Gideon's failures put every leader on notice for the idolatry of achievement, power and approval.
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:12-14
- Gideon's failures point forward to Jesus.
Scriptures: Luke 4:5-8; Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 6:15b-16; Colossians 1:16-17; Philippians 2:5-11

"The peace of Judge Gideon was limited to 40 years and it was a compromised peace. A peace without worship. A peace without obedience." Tim Keller

Conclusion:

We find eternal peace at the foot of the cross where there is no room for pride or human pragmatism.

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:79; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Corinthians 1:31

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Two failures that demonstrate Gideon's flawed leadership:

Failure #1: Gideon's Semi-Refusal of a _____ Was Rooted in _____.

How did Gideon live like a king?

- Accumulated _____ (v. 26)
- Made an ephod to _____ (v. 27)
- Had _____ (v. 30)
- Established a _____ (v. 30)
- Named a child "My Father _____" (*Abimelech*, v. 31)

Two Potential Sources of Pride Among Believers:

- Substantial _____.
- Significant _____.

Failure #2: Gideon Established A _____ Based On _____.

What is the ephod and why is it significant? (*Exodus 28:3-14*)

- The **spiritual significance** of the ephod was _____ before God.
- The **practical purpose** of the ephod was to gain _____ or _____ from God.

Walking with the Spirit brings joy, victory and peace, but is experienced most profoundly in the drudgery of the daily living! (*Galatians 5:25*)

- **Gideon's failures put every leader on _____** for the idolatry of achievement, power and approval. **Scripture:** *1 Corinthians 10:12-14*)
- **Gideon's failures _____ to Jesus.**
Scriptures: *Luke 4:5-8; Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 6:15b-16; Colossians 1:16-17; Philippians 2:5-11*

"The peace of Judge Gideon was limited to 40 years and it was a compromised peace. A peace without worship. A peace without obedience." Tim Keller

Conclusion:

We find _____ at the foot of the cross where there is no room for _____ or _____.

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