

Date: March 16, 2025
Series: Judges: Mankind Exposed
Title: That was Disappointing
Text: Judges 8



INTRODUCTION

1) God wants us to see that our hope must ultimately be found in Him not in each other.

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)

2) God wants us to learn from the failings and the sins of those who have gone before us!

"The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble."
(Proverbs 4:18-19)

3) God wants us to stay watchful, to remain alert/attentive, especially in times of success!

"...let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)

I. FROM DISAPPOINTMENT TO DISCERNMENT

Judges 8:1-3 and Judges 7:2 -

1) PRIDE - We make a mess of things when we seek after our own glory!

1 Corinthians 3:5-7

Judges 8:4-9 -

2) SELF-PRESERVATION - We will miss out on what God is doing if we're self-centered!

Matthew 16:18; Romans 8:35-39; Hebrews 6:10; James 1:2-4

Judges 8:10-12 -

3) NOT DISAPPOINTING - God is faithful! He fulfills His word!

Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 John 1:9

Judges 8:13-17 -

4) REVENGE - We must never take revenge. Trust God to accomplish justice in His timing.

Romans 12:19-21

Judges 8:18-31 -

5) HYPOCRISY - Hypocrisy is deceit and betrayal! We are called to a life of integrity!

1 Corinthians 10:12

Judges 8:32-35 -

6) NOT DISAPPOINTING - God remains our only hope to quiet, to fill, and to satisfy our anxious, restless hearts.

Psalms 16:11

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why is God's word so honest and blunt with us about the weaknesses and sins of His people?
2. What is Ephraim's problem in verses 1-3? How does Gideon deal with them?
3. What can we learn from Succoth and Peniel? Why won't they help? What are they blind to?
4. What does Gideon say in verse 23? How does he act in verses 18-21, 24-31? What's the problem?
5. How does this rather disappointing chapter magnify our need for God, His grace, and His word?