

Judges
War with Midian—Part 1
Judges 6:33-8:3
Sermon Outline

Introduction: As we make our way through life, trying to do the right thing, how much does God do and how much do we do? We do 100% and God does 100%--but we rely on what God does. *V. 20: A sword for the Lord and for Gideon.*

I) God's part

A) Everything points to the battle being the Lord's

God's promises (6.14, 6.16)

God's anointing (7.34)

Gideon's weakness

B) Why does God insist on this?

Because it's the truth

Because we tend not to believe it

Because he wants to encourage us

Our biggest problem

II) Our part

A) God keeps using Gideon

Call

Anointing

Mustering

Fighting

Pursuing

B) Meaning for us

We are not God's dirty little secret—reluctantly used

Take Away

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) As you make your way through life—trying to do the right thing, trying to make the world a better place, trying to overcome sin—how much does God do and how much do you do? Consider Judges 7:18, Judges 7:20 and Philippians 2:11-12 in your answer.
- 2) Everything in the story of Israel's war with Midian seems to stress that the victory belongs to the Lord. List as many things as you can—at least 5.
- 3) Why does God insist so vigorously on the victory being his along? Isaiah 40 and Ephesians 2:8-9 should help.
- 4) How is Jesus' way of winning over sin and death pictured in Gideon's way of winning over Midian? How are Jesus and Gideon different—in character, in deeds, in accomplishments?
- 5) Reflect on the following: "The story of Gideon reminds us that we, weak as we may be, are not God's 'dirty little secret' whom he reluctantly puts to work, like the 4th string QB whom the coach reluctantly puts into play because the other three have all sustained injuries. We are his chosen modus operandi for fighting the cosmic war and establishing his glory: 'Through the church the manifold wisdom of God [is] made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly place' (Ephesians 3:10). After declaring that 'all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me,' he does not continue, 'Wait, therefore, and watch me do my thing' (Matthew 28). Nor does he tell his disciples to sit back and watch him feed the 5000. He rather says, 'You give them something to eat.'
- 6) What difficult thing is the Lord calling you to do?