

Judges
Gideon's Sad Legacy
Judges 8:22-35
Sermon Outline

Introduction: People always let us down. Gideon and his people are no exception.

I) Disappointment
A) Israel disappoints us

What about us?

B) Gideon disappoints us

What about us?

C) What do we do with OT characters?

II) Hope: God is the hero of the story

A) His patient kindness

With Gideon

With us

B) His suffering

Israel played the harlot

Jesus: The culmination of God's patient suffering

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Recall an occasion when somebody (either a public figure or a personal friend) let you down. What happened? What impact did it have on you? How does that let down still affect you if it does?
- 2) Review the story of Gideon and the Midianites. List all the positive and promising things in Judges 8:22-26, 28-32. Think of a comparable experience from your personal or national life.
- 3) There are a number of "flies in the ointment" in this positive and promising scenario. What are they (see vv. 22, 27, and 33-35)? See also v. 31 in the light of Judges 9:3-5)? Try to illustrate these problems from your own experience—either from things you have done or things that have been done to you.
- 4) Why do we so easily shift our heart's allegiance, drift from the right path, and forget those who have done good to us (both God and people)?
- 5) Gideon is an ambiguous character; it is not always easy to discern what the narrator (or God) thinks of him. List as many ambiguities as you can find. Why does God give us so many spiritually ambiguous heroes in the Bible (think of Jael, Samson, Saul, and David)? Answer with reference to 2 Timothy 3:15.
- 6) What do the events at the end of the Gideon story (8:22-35) reveal about God? Why does God view idolatry as prostitution and adultery (vv. 27, 33)? What does this tell us about the impact of such behavior on his heart?
- 7) How do the kindness, patience and suffering that we see in God reach their zenith in the ministry of Jesus Christ? Spend some time thanking God.