



MIDIAN 15,000 VS. GIDEON 300

Judges 7:23-25 Then Gideon sent for the warriors of Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh, who joined in chasing the army of Midian. ²⁴Gideon also sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim, saying, “Come down to attack the Midianites. Cut them off at the shallow crossings of the Jordan River...So all the men of Ephraim did as they were told. ²⁵They captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two Midianite commanders, killing Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. And they continued to chase the Midianites. Afterward the Israelites brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was by the Jordan River.

1. GIDEON HAD TO FIGHT THROUGH CRITICISM

Judges 8:1 Then the people of Ephraim asked Gideon, “Why have you treated us this way? Why didn’t you send for us when you first went out to fight the Midianites?” And they argued heatedly with Gideon.

Judges 7:2; Psalm 78:9

Judges 8:2-3 But Gideon replied, “What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren’t even the leftover grapes of Ephraim’s harvest better than the entire crop of my little clan of Abiezer? ³**God gave you victory** over Oreb and Zeeb, the commanders of the Midianite army. What have I accomplished compared to that?” When the men of Ephraim heard Gideon’s answer, their anger subsided.

Colossians 3:23 (ESV) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men

2. GIDEON HAD TO FIGHT THROUGH FATIGUE

Judges 8:4 Gideon then crossed the Jordan River with his 300 men, and **though exhausted, they continued to chase** the enemy.

Matthew 9:37-38 “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the **laborers** are few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out **laborers** into His harvest.”

- REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO - **Judges 6:14**
- GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE - **Judges 7:22**
- KEEP FOCUSED ON WHAT VICTORY WILL MEAN

3. GIDEON HAD TO FIGHT THROUGH INDIFFERENCE

Judges 8:5-9 When they reached Succoth, Gideon asked the leaders of the town, "Please give my warriors some food. They are very tired. I am chasing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." ⁶ But the officials of Succoth replied, "Catch Zebah and Zalmunna first, and then we will feed your army." ⁷ So Gideon said, "After the LORD gives me victory over Zebah and Zalmunna, I will return and tear your flesh with the thorns and briars from the wilderness." ⁸ From there Gideon went up to Peniel and again asked for food, but he got the same answer. ⁹ So he said to the people of Peniel, "After I return in victory, I will tear down this tower."

Judges 8:16-17 Then Gideon took the elders of the town and taught them a lesson, punishing them with thorns and briars from the wilderness. ¹⁷ He also tore down the tower of Peniel and killed all the men in the town.

1 Peter 3:9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.

4. GIDEON HAD TO FIGHT THROUGH TEMPTATION

Judges 8:21 So Gideon killed them both and took the royal ornaments from the necks of their camels.

MIDIAN 0 VS. GIDEON 300+

Judges 8:22-23 Then the Israelites said to Gideon, "Be our ruler! You and your son and your grandson will be our rulers, for you have rescued us from Midian." ²³ But Gideon replied, "I will not rule over you, nor will my son. The LORD will rule over you!"