

Study Guide for Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. An Unlikely Strategy: Judges 6:33 – 7:25

Introduction: When have you witnessed God bring about his purpose in a way that defied human logic or expectation? Did others recognize God's hand in those events?

I. Calling the forces / Setting out the fleece (twice): Judges 6:33-40

- A. How many times had the Midianites come to plunder the land? (See 6:1-6)
- B. What is different this year? (vs. 34) What had the people done? (vs.7)
- C. On a map find the Valley of Jezreel and note where the troops gathered from.
- D. Evaluate Gideon's requests (vs. 36 & vs. 39) in light of his earlier encounter with the angel of the Lord, (See vs. 12, 14, 16 & 23) and the Spirit of the Lord (vs. 34)
- E. What happens to the fleece . . . on the first night? . . . on the second night?
- F. What conclusions can you make about God and Gideon from this interchange?
- G. How would you respond to a Christian friend who confides that he/she "set out a fleece" before God to help discern God's will in a particular decision?

II. Reducing the army (twice) / Receiving God's warriors: Judges 7:1-8a

- A. Why does the Lord, Israel's supreme military commander, conclude that Gideon's army is too large? What attitude does God want his people to develop?
- B. On what basis does God instruct Gideon to dismiss recruits? (See Deut. 20:8)
- C. What is God's conclusion to Gideon after 22,000 men have left?
- D. How does God instruct Gideon to discern who else should be dismissed?
- E. How many men are left after the two reductions? What resources do they have?
- F. When have you witnessed God reducing resources prior to his divine provision?

III. Preparing the Leader and the troops for battle: Judges 7:8b-18

- A. What direction does God give to Gideon? What promise does God give Gideon?
- B. What happens when Gideon and Purah go into the Midianite camp?
- C. How must God have been at work in this nighttime rendezvous? What is the result?
- D. How would you characterize Gideon after returning from the Midianite camp?
- E. Describe the military strategy that Gideon employs with his 300 troops.
- F. Read and relate I Sam. 14:6 to this story. How can this principle be applied today?

IV The Enemy Routed / The people delivered: Judges 7:19-25

- A. When do Gideon and his men reach the enemy camp? What do they do and say?
- B. What happened in the camp of the Midianites? Who was primarily responsible?
- C. What further action does Gideon take as the Midianite army flees?
- D. What would be the effect of this further outcome to the nighttime battle?

Conclusion: What can we learn from Gideon's example and this story? Where is God calling you to exercise faith – even a small measure of it? (Matt. 17:20-21 & Luke 17:6)