

# What Was God Really After? - Judges Pt 07

**REVIEW** God is dealing with Gideon's heart of fear wanting him to see himself as God sees him

Jdg 7:2 The **LORD said to Gideon**, "**You have too many warriors with you.** If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that **they saved themselves by their own strength.** 3 Therefore, tell the people, '**Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.**'" So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight.

- **What is God after? (1) Gideon's Heart** → *still dominated by fear* - "**You have too many warriors**"
- **What is God after? (2)** He wanted former worshipers of Baal, **to know Him** → ONLY HE could do this
- **If just fear** -- why not deal with the fear of the 22,000 **If just victory** why not keep the 32,000

4 **But the LORD told Gideon**, "**There are still too many!** Bring them down to the spring, **and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not.**" .....{2 groups, those who put water in their hand & lapped like dogs and those who bent to drink from the water} .....6 **Only 300 of the men drank from their hands.** All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream.

7 **The LORD told Gideon**, "**With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home.**"

- **With these 300 men** → **God pushing Gideon to the brink in order to deal with fear AND**
  - began with 4.5 to 1 odds, now it is 450 to 1 → 1% of the original force
- **What was God after? To know HIM** → **and OBEY him (lappers)** I will rescue you and give you victory

9 **That night the LORD said**, "**Get up! Go down into the Midianite camp, for I have given you victory over them!** 10 **But if you are afraid to attack**, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. 11 Listen to what the Midianites are saying, and **you will be greatly encouraged. Then you will be eager to attack.**"

- **God** → I've given you victory **Heart** → **IF you are afraid, you'll be encouraged & eager to attack**

{Gideon → enemy camp heard a man describe a dream - and now interpreted} .....

14 His companion answered, "**Your dream can mean only one thing—God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over Midian and all its allies!**" 15 When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, **he bowed in worship before the LORD.**

- **Maybe this is what God was after all along...**"he bowed in worship before the LORD"
- **Everything changed from this moment**
- **He who grew up in a house that worshipped Baal is now a worshiper of God**

15(b) Then he returned to the Israelite camp and shouted, "**Get up! For the LORD has given you victory over the Midianite hordes!**"

- He sees things God's way (**LORD** v9 I have given victory, **Gideon** v 15 the Lord has given victory)
- He is no longer paralyzed by fear...It didn't matter he only had 300 men
- He didn't even worry about weapons -- he gave each a trumpet, a vase and a torch (HIS PLAN?)
- They surrounded the enemy and at the same time blew horns broke vases and torches shined

22 When the 300 Israelites blew their rams' horns, **the LORD caused the warriors in the camp to fight against each other with their swords.** Those who were not killed fled to places as far away as Beth-shittah near Zererah and to the border of Abel-meholah near Tabbath.

## NEXT STEP

- **What if all of God's dealings are designed primarily to move us to bow in worship to God?**
- About God? He pursues us relentlessly, To capture our heart, yet He is patient and gentle in process
- About Man? We don't often see ourselves as He sees us, but we can change...
- If God pursued some area of your heart, to move you to worship and obedience what would it be?