

**Sermon Title:** Glass Houses: It was all good just a week ago

**Scripture:** Judges 7-9

*God Dynamics:*

Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. <sup>2</sup>The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. **I cannot deliver Midian into their hands**, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ <sup>3</sup>Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. <sup>4</sup>But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” <sup>5</sup>So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” <sup>6</sup>Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. <sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” <sup>8</sup>So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.  
Judges 7:1-8a

**God is never the underdog.**

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. <sup>9</sup>During that night the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. <sup>10</sup>**If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah <sup>11</sup>and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.**” So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. <sup>12</sup>The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.  
v8b-12

**God is considerate.**

Gideon arrived **just as a man was telling a friend his dream**. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.” <sup>14</sup>His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.” <sup>15</sup>When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.”  
v13-15

**God’s timing is better than man’s tactics.**

No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. **They set up Baal-Berith as their god <sup>34</sup>and did not remember the Lord their God**, who had rescued

them from the hands of all their enemies on every side. <sup>35</sup> **They also failed to show any loyalty to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon)** in spite of all the good things he had done for them.

Judges 8:33-35

Thus **God repaid** the wickedness that Abimelek had done to his father by murdering his seventy brothers. <sup>57</sup> God also made the people of Shechem pay for all their wickedness. The curse of Jotham son of Jerub-Baal came on them.

Judges 9:56-57

**God is loyal to the end, not to a fault.**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.**

John 13:1

**I can't earn the love of Jesus, but I can reject it.**

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often I have longed to gather your children together**, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and **you were not willing.**

Luke 13:34

*The **rise** of Gideon:*

*Notice the **faith steps**:*

If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah <sup>11</sup> and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” **So he and Purah his servant went down** to the outposts of the camp.

v10-11

**Humility demonstrates our dependence on God & positions us to be used by God.**

Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” **So twenty-two thousand men left**, while ten thousand remained.

<sup>4</sup> But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. **If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.**”

<sup>5</sup> **So Gideon took the men down to the water.** There the Lord told him, “**Separate those who lap the water** with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” <sup>6</sup> **Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs.** All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

v3-6

**Obedience demonstrates our trust in God & positions us to be blessed by God.**

When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, **‘For the Lord and for Gideon.’**<sup>19</sup> Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.<sup>20</sup> The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, **‘A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!’**<sup>21</sup> While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.<sup>22</sup> **When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.** The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath.  
v18-22

*The fall of Gideon:*

*Notice the **missteps**:*

Then he asked Zebah and Zalmunna, “What kind of men did you kill at Tabor?” “Men like you,” they answered, “each one with the bearing of a prince.”<sup>19</sup> Gideon replied, **‘Those were my brothers, the sons of my own mother. As surely as the Lord lives, if you had spared their lives, I would not kill you.’**<sup>20</sup> Turning to Jether, his oldest son, he said, “Kill them!” But Jether did not draw his sword, because he was only a boy and was afraid.<sup>21</sup> Zebah and Zalmunna said, **‘Come, do it yourself. As is the man, so is his strength.’** So Gideon stepped forward and killed them, and took the ornaments off their camels’ necks.  
v18-21

**Poor emotional-spiritual health leads to replacing God.**

The Israelites said to Gideon, **‘Rule over us—you, your son and your grandson—because you have saved us from the hand of Midian.’**<sup>23</sup> But Gideon told them, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you.”<sup>24</sup> And he said, **‘I do have one request, that each of you give me an earring from your share of the plunder.’** (It was the custom of the Ishmaelites to wear gold earrings.)<sup>25</sup> They answered, “We’ll be glad to give them.” So they spread out a garment, and each of them threw a ring from his plunder onto it.<sup>26</sup> The weight of the gold rings he asked for came to seventeen hundred shekels, not counting the ornaments, the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian or the chains that were on their camels’ necks.<sup>27</sup> **Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town.** All Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.<sup>28</sup> Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon’s lifetime, the land had peace forty years.<sup>29</sup> Jerub-Baal son of Joash went back home to live.<sup>30</sup> **He had seventy sons of his own, for he had many wives.**<sup>31</sup> **His concubine, who lived in Shechem, also bore him a son, whom he named Abimelek.**  
v22-31

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.  
Proverbs 16:18

**Pride comes before the fall & forgetfulness.**

## **“But by the grace of God”**

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.<sup>10</sup> **But by the grace of God I am what I am**, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berithas their god<sup>34</sup> and did not remember the Lord their God, **who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side.**<sup>35</sup> They also failed to show any loyalty to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) **in spite of all the good things he had done for them.**  
v33-35

**The further we move from relying on the grace of God, the closer we get to bringing chaos in our life.**

*Concluding **Consideration:***

**Personalize the phrase “But by the grace of God”**

*How has God’s grace **protected** you?*

*How has God’s grace **empowered** you?*

*Where is God’s grace **stretching** you and why?*