

Judges

broken people :: faithful God

Cycle #4 - Judges 8 -

- **Gideon has conquered!**
 - **Midian and Amalek are routed**
 - **leaders are killed (7:25) Oreb and Zeeb**
- **The victories of our lives...**
 - **Challenges with living AFTER them!**
 - **Gideon's day is not over and...**
 - **Issues arise!**
 - **He avoids controversy with Ephriam (8:1)**

A Tale of 2 Cities...

- **Gideon's men are exhausted! (8:4)**
 - **They have fought and pursued**
 - **Kings are still running... Zebah & Zalmunna**
- **Succoth – looking for food for the people!**
 - **Arrogance – are they in your hand? (6)**
 - **People saw a rag-tag army, not God's hand!**
- **Penuel – trusting in a tower (Gen 32)**
- **Gideon promises punishment...**

The Numbers are in...

- **8:10 – 120,000 have fallen...**
 - **15,000 remain with the kings...**
 - **Gideon circles around and catches them**
 - **Vs 12 – army is routed again from camp**
 - **Kings are captured!**
- **Gideon goes back to the cities...**
 - **Shows them the kings... “you taunted me”**
 - **Keeps his promise... tower torn down**

Gideon is Thinking...

- **What kind of people am I helping?**
 - **Trials and hardships can destroy love**
 - **We can become hard against God**
 - **Gideon tears the elders – lacked courage**
 - **And tower – false trust...**
 - **When we trust in the wrong things...**
 - **He is also good at his word!**

Dealing with Kings

- **Gideon gathers the men...**
 - **Who did you kill at Tabor?**
 - **His brothers were killed in a raid (kings!?)**
 - **Gideon's son is young...**
 - **Gideon finishes the judgment**
- **Gideon has been consistent and fair**
 - **But now, comes his greatest challenges**

Be our KING!

- **People are quick to make “kings”**
 - **What starts quick, ends the same way!**
- **“Rule over us...”**
 - **They did the same to Jesus!**
- **Not us... “The Lord shall rule over you.”**
 - **Humility and wisdom**
 - **Gideon was safe here... (power)**

Gideon and Gold...

- **BUT – he asks for gold! Enemy earrings**
 - **Torn off the ones defeated**
 - **Why take anything from them?**
 - **Perhaps greed or fear of future famine**
 - **43 POUNDS of gold, besides camel ornaments and kingly attire (8:26)**
 - **He tries to get spiritual about it – ephod and it becomes an idol for all...**

2nd Challenge

- **His lifestyle...**
 - **Name change in vs 29... why?**
 - **He takes many wives and has 70 sons**
 - **Also, a concubine in Shechem... traveler**
 - **From her, Abimelech...**
- **The end of his inconsistent life...**
 - **Heb 11 – he makes it for his deeds...**

God...

- **Uses broken people...**
- **Will work with those who surrender**
- **Will help us in our fears**
- **Will give victory to our hands...**
- **Yet, even in the “300”... Gideon had too much and relied on his own “gods”...**

Next week:



Samson!

Judges