

(1) v1-17 → A successful Gideon battles with his own people

(2) v18-32 → A successful Gideon leads his own people into idolatry

Conclusion: Unlike Gideon Christ had every right to demand to be served as King. Unlike Gideon Christ was and is the tabernacle, God’s ultimate dwelling-place on earth. Yet Christ resisted the temptation to rule in power over the nations when tempted by Satan. Unlike Gideon Christ as Mk. 10:45 says “*did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” And unlike Gideon’s ephod, Christ is the One to whom we should rightly come to and worship. He alone brings true freedom from our true enemies.

- (1) **Read Judges 8:1-3.** Why do you think Gideon reacted so humbly when confronted by the Ephraimites?
- (2) **Read Judges 8:4-9, 13-17.** Why do you think Gideon reacted so harshly to the men of Succoth and Peniel? Can his actions be justified?
- (3) Are there aspects of your life where you think you should get more recognition and honor? How can the gospel help you deal with this?
- (4) **Read Judges 8:10-12, 18-21.** Why do you think Gideon was more willing to show these Midianite kings more grace (see end of v19) than those in Succoth and Peniel?
- (5) **Read Judges 8:22-23.** Why do you think Israel wanted to make Gideon their king? What does this reveal about their understanding of God's leadership?
- (6) **Read Judges 8:24-28.** Discuss the possible motivations behind Gideon's decision to make an ephod. What can this teach us about good intentions with misguided execution?
- (7) How can Gideon's transformation from a humble servant to a stumbling leader serve as a warning to us today?
- (8) How can Gideon's story encourage us to trust God more, whether in weakness/suffering or success?