

“Spiritual Success Replaced by Spiritual Failure”

Judges 7:16-8:17

January 19, 2020

I. Gideon’s Story Show His Faith Rewarded (Judges 7:16-25)

- A. The Midianites were driven mad by Gideon’s 300 men and their fiery jars.
- B. The Lord provided the stunning victory that He had promised.
- C. Israel was delivered. Isn’t that the end of this story?

II. Surprisingly, Gideon’s Story Continues (8:1-3)

- A. Cracks remain between God’s people.
- B. Cracks remain in Gideons perspective.

III. Gideon’s Story Takes a Tragic Downturn (8:4-17)

- A. Gideon pursues a foreign assault not directed by the Lord.
- B. Gideon cruelly savages his own people on the way.
- C. All of this happened on the heels of his faith-fueled triumph.

IV. Implications and Applications

- A. God’s people often suffer great spiritual defeats after great spiritual successes (see Peter in Matt. 16).
- B. God’s people often have spiritual lives that start well but end in a rut.
- C. The above is true because of our remaining pride and carelessness.
- D. To break this cycle, we must seek to live in a state of humility and desperate trust in God’s enablement.
- E. We can joyfully look to Jesus who was ever faithful and who helps us to be (and provides forgiveness when we’re not).