

Recap of 6/4/17 (Judges 7:1-8):

1. One more word about knowing God's will from Oswald Chambers, **My Utmost for His Highest**: "At first we want the consciousness of being guided by God, then as we go on we live so much in the consciousness of God that we do no need to ask what His will is, because the thought of choosing any other will never occur to us. If we are saved and sanctified God guides us by our ordinary choices, and if we are going to choose what He does not want, He will check, and we must heed. Whenever there is a doubt, stop at once. Never reason it out and say—'I wonder why I shouldn't?' God instructs us in what we choose, that is, He guides our common sense, and we no longer hinder His Spirit by continually saying—'Now, Lord, what is Thy will?'" (June 3rd reading).
2. It is necessary, in studying the book of Judges, to keep in mind the big picture. Judges is the story of a fickle people and a faithful God. He is continually trying to show them that giving allegiance to the false gods and idols of the land can only bring defeat, while trust in the Living God is the only road to victory. Why trust impotent false gods when you have the Living God who intervenes on behalf of His people who place their faith in Him.
3. The story of Gideon illustrates this in that while Israel is outnumbered by more than four to one by the Midianites (32,000 to 135,000), God whittles Israel's forces down to 300 to show His infinite power to deliver them from overwhelming odds. A lesson we need to remember in the challenges we face in life whether financial, physical, emotional/relational, or spiritual.
4. "God frequently cuts down on our resources in order that we may entirely depend upon Him. Sometimes He sends us sickness, or financial reverses, or difficulties of one kind or another, to put us in fighting trim and train us to rely solely on His power." (Henry Jabobsen).
5. The method God used to whittle down the troops had to do with the seemingly innocuous test of lapping water. Warren Wiersbe points out that there are many choice we make in everyday life which seem innocuous at the time but can have significance consequences in our lives. I'm calling these test the "Tests of everyday things." An example he gives is Moses striking the rock instead of speaking to it in Numbers 20:1-13, as instructed by God. A decision which cost him entry to the Promised Land (though in mercy he would be allowed to see it from afar).