

Recap of 6/11/17 (Judges 7:9-8:3):

1. Gideon is about to face an enemy force numbering 135,000 with a force of 300 (after God had him dismiss 31,700 troops). He has encouraged Gideon every step of the way: the fire (6:21,22); the fleece (6:36-40); and now by His Word and the dream of an enemy soldier (7:9ff). The dream consisted of a barley loaf (representing Israel) crushing the tents of Midian. Gideon is encouraged in the fight. Israel would be victorious. The Lord has given the Midianite camp into His hands.
2. At that moment he worships God. We get a glimpse into what worship is through this. The Hebrew words means “to bow down.” In response to God’s work and word, he worships silently, right then and there. To worship is to acknowledge God’s work and word and presence; and to respond in gratitude and awe.
3. At the sound of Gideon’s 300 men sounding their trumpets and breaking the earthen jars concealing the torches the Midianite camp was thrown into confusion. The darkness, the noise, the confusion all gave the impressions that Israel had a much larger force. That led to panic and fear and the defeat of the Midianites and their allies as they turned on each other.
4. “Once again the Lord delivered His people. He did it through a human instrument who was hesitant and fearful, but who finally came to trust God to work through him in his weakness. May the Lord enable us to do the same.” (Don Campbell)
5. Gideon shows humility and diplomatic skill in dealing with the Ephraimites who were called upon to help in the mopping up operations. They criticized Gideon for not including them in the initial call to arms. He illustrates Proverbs 15:1, “A gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
6. “Humility is the hallmark of the spiritual leader.” (J. Oswald Sanders, **Spiritual Leadership**); “Let people who want credit have it. Those who most deserve credit, like Gideon, seldom find it important.” (Richards)