

February 19, 2017

Series: Despicable Me?

Sermon Title: *Less is Best - Gideon*

Key Verse:

Judges 6:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” ¹⁶The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

The Key:

Think not less of self, but of self less

BOASTING in Him alone

Judges 7:2-3 (NIV) ²The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ ³Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

1 Corinthians 1:31 (NRSV) ³¹“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 11:30 (NRSV) ³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

CHOOSING the humble

Judges 7:7 (NIV) ⁷The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”

1 Peter 5:6 (NRSV) ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.

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to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

James 4:10 (NRSV) ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

EQUIPPING the few

Judges 7:16 (NIV) ¹⁶Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

Philippians 4:19 (NRSV) ¹⁹And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

CELEBRATING the Lord

Judges 7:19-22a (NIV) ¹⁹Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. ²⁰The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” ²¹While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. ²²When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.

Romans 8:31 (NRSV) ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Romans 8:37 (NRSV) ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Challenge Questions:

What struggles might God use in your life?

How can you focus on self less?

What are the tools you need for battle?

Of what battle could you anticipate victory?

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