

Judges- Week 3 Homework

Read Judges chapters 6-10:5. This is the cycle of Gideon as Judge, and Abimelech's conspiracy afterwards. Take note of anything that stands out to you. This page is for your notes, feel free to add questions and observations here as thoughts come to you throughout the week. *(Remember, the first step to comprehension is good questions and observations!)*

Read chapter 6. Are the steps of the cycle the same as the previous judges so far? What is different or added? Why do you think this is? *(We are making observations here and then interpreting our observations).*

How many signs does Gideon ask God for in this chapter? What purpose did the signs serve? Did they make him feel any better? What do you think it says about Gideon that he asked for these signs? Do you ever feel tempted to ask for signs from God like this? Should you? Why or why not? *(We are hitting observations for comprehension, then interpretation, then application here! In that order!)*

What are the positive and negative qualities we see so far in Gideon? Where is he when we are first introduced to him? How does God describe him? What do you think makes him a likely or unlikely choice for a judge? Do you relate to Gideon in any way? *(More observations to help with Comprehension, then interpreting our observations.)*

We see in chapter 6 that before raising up a judge, God sent a prophet to convict the Israelites of their idolatry. He wanted to address their hearts first before addressing their physical needs. He also tells Gideon to tear down the alter to Baal before sending him to battle, again addressing their heart problem of idolatry. In what ways is God trying to address your sin or idolatry and lead your heart back to him? Do you need to take your eyes off of your physical actions or circumstances and address your heart? *(Application time!)*

How many men started out in Gideon's army in chapter 7? How many men did God narrow it down to? Why did he want to send Gideon with such a small army? Is there an area that God is pushing you to step out in faith and believe that he will show up in a big way? *(Observations, interpretation, then application, again in that order!)*

In chapter 7 we see a 4th sign. What is different about this sign and the previous 3? How does Gideon respond? Why do you think this sign produced a different response in him than the other three? *(Observations for comprehension and then interpretation.)*

At the end of chapter 7, where was Zeeb killed? Why is this significant? (hint: think of where we saw this type of location before). (*Observations and interpretation*).

In chapter 8, Why was the tribe of Ephraim angry with Gideon? What does this tell us about their hearts? Why do you think the cities of Succoth and Penuel wouldn't help Gideon's army? What does this tell us about their hearts? How did Gideon respond? What does this tell us about Gideon's heart? (*Observations and interpretation*.)

What did Gideon do after telling the Israelites that he would not be their king and that God was their king? Look up what an Ephod was. Was it appropriate for him to make one? Why or why not? How many sons and wives did he have? Was this normal for a common man? Look up the meaning of the name "Abimelech". What does it mean that this is what he named his son? What does all of this tell you about Gideon's heart at this point? (*Observations and interpretation*.)

In chapter 9, who appointed Abimelech? Who appointed all of the judges leading up to him? What does this mean? (*Observations and interpretation*)

In Jotham's parable, what are the types of plants? Which of these are beneficial plants? Which are not? Could bramble provide shade to the first three trees as it offers in the parable? What is Jotham saying here? (*Making sure we have full comprehension here!*)

We don't hear much mention of God in chapter 9. In the middle of the chaos, how was God at work? How do we know this? (Hint, look at verses 23-24, and 56-57). (*observing details in the text!*)

Who was destroying the Israelites in chapter 9? Chapter 10 verse 1 says that Tola arose to save Israel. Who do you think he saved Israel from? (*Observations and interpretation*)