

THE INVINCIBLE THREE HUNDRED

"You Can Be Invincible"

Read the Scripture: Judges 7:2-7, 16-21

Re-tell the story.

Lessons or Application

I. Numbers alone do not assure victory

- A. God has never complained of having too few people to work with.
- B. More important by far than the number of people in His service is the right kind of people who will do the right thing in the right spirit.

II. Fear is a great handicap for one who would be a Xtn.

- A. It is contagious & spreads panic
- B. It is the opposite of faith & stops the door of God's grace and power.
- C. Gideon's faith was tested in seeing 22,000 of his men leave him on the eve of the battle.
- D. Why some are afraid:
 - 1. Some today are afraid that they will have to give up too many pleasures & possessions to be a Xtn.
 - 2. Some are afraid of being ridiculed.
 - 3. Some are afraid they might not hold out & so become a hypocrite.
 - 4. Some were perhaps unsure of themselves because they were holding their father's sword, & not their own.
- D. They who have counted the cost and have never started out on the Christian way, or who, having put their hand to the plow & looked back have proven themselves unworthy of the Kingdom of God.

III. Certain situations serve as a revealing test.

- A. A man is known only when he is tried.
- B. Water is God's gift; it is good.
Thirst for water is natural & normal.
Many things in life are innocent or good in themselves
Literature, knowledge, pleasure, recreation, the desire to "get ahead" financially & materially.
The Christian is called to self-culture & self development & self-advancement as far as the other duties of life will permit.

" Do not pray for easy lives.

Pray to be stronger men.

Do not pray for tasks equal to
your powers.

Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

- Phillips Brooks (quoted by
Pres. Kennedy at a Presidential
Prayer Breakfast, 7 Feb. 1963.

Sometimes the church finds strength through subtraction. In Gideon's situation the problem was one of reducing rather than recruiting Israel's army.

The reason was the possibility that Israel might think the victory was hers rather than God's. There must never be any doubt that the victory belongs to the Lord, though He may work through human instruments. Therefore the army had to be so small that their defeat would be inevitable if there were left unaided.

For this reason the two tests were devised: the test of fear and the test of drinking water while remaining fully alert.

There is a parallel and a parable for all of life. It is that spiritual nourishment is to be found as one moves along the common paths of daily experience, and we can take advantage of these opportunities without letting our guard down against our common enemies of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

But there are times in the providence of God when we are called to pass quickly along the streams of physical refreshment & keep our eye on the enemy of our souls & be prepared at any moment to throw ourselves into the hard fight against evil.

God tests us in the little things,
the ordinary opportunities of life.
Little things test & reveal character.

These 300 were chosen because they had learned the lesson of self control & the habit of constant vigilance

IV. We can never let down our guard against the enemy of our souls.

V. Faith in the presence & help of the Lord is no substitute for good organization & planning. (vs. 16)

A. There is nothing unlawful about good Xtn strategy.

B. 3 companies of 100 each.

C. Wise use of noise & torches

D. Disconcerting effect of the shouting, etc.

E. "The sword of the Lord & of Gideon" --

Union of the divine & the human,
the natural & the supernatural.

VI. God blesses & uses ^{persons} men of courage, faith & wisdom. +

dedication + consecration.

VII. God's way may be different from man's way,
but it is always the best way. (over) →

CONCLUSION:

Happy is the one who is among such a band of 300.

Many have forsaken him.

Many are against him.

But still he is invincible, for God is with him.

And, "If God be for us, Who can be against us?"

The Christian church is a minority in this world. One great preacher said, "The hope of the world lies in its minorities."

Minority groups have great power for good or for evil; for good if linked with God's resources, for evil if gathered about any lesser banner.

Christian people as a whole are only a "Gideon's Band."

We must find the strength, as a little group, to be stronger than the majority. This means we must have a continuous sense of purpose, a driving, passionate devotion to the cause of Christ. Those who belong to Christ must be under the compulsion of a mighty purpose.

There are many small minorities today who know where they are going, what they want to do, what kind of a world they want to see established. The communists, the Neo-Nazis, and the KKK here in our land have such a philosophy which is clear to them, and they are united in purpose behind their cause.

We Christians must have a purpose too, one that is clearer, better, and worthier than that of any other group. We do have such a purpose: mankind made one, justice for all, forgiveness rather than revenge, a reign of love among all men. And we shall advance as a Christian minority in proportion to the way in which we make God's purpose our purpose.

Many Christian people have the right goal, but they have so little confidence and faith that that goal can be realized.

The fact that Gideon was listed among the heroes of faith in that great chapter on faith (Heb. 11) indicates that he fits into the noble succession of those who not only had a great purpose, but he believed in it with all his heart and soul. - (Concl. - over ->

Gateway B.C. St. Pete, Nov. 80.

1st Int. Bd. Ft. Ben. Ex, 6 Nov. 60

Azalea Bp. Ch. St. Pete. 5 Aug. 62

Aug - Camp Evans Vietnam

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