

WORD SECTION SUMMARY AND Q'S 17/08/2008

Read *Judges Chapter 6 vs. 1-18 and chapter 7 vs. 1-22.*

Summary:

1. Against the odds:

Gideon saw huge odds against his nation, his community and his country, he saw enemies in vast numbers occupying his land and devouring the harvest. He did not know what to do and wondered why God had allowed it to happen. He wanted change but was frightened. We too, see odds against us in our city odds such as poverty and immorality...do we cry out to God for change? Do we feel overwhelmed by these odds?

2. Gideon in hiding, God choosing:

Gideon was threshing wheat in the winepress to keep it from the Midianites, he was in hiding and scared, he felt disempowered. When God spoke to him and called him 'mighty warrior' his immediate reply was to rule himself out by saying "...my clan is the weakest in Israel and I am the weakest in my clan..." Does Gideon's response sound familiar to us?

3. Raising an Army:

God told Gideon to raise an army to defeat the enemy. God is also raising an army here in the Crown Church, an army that is full of a people who play their part, who know their instructions, who know their enemy, who are fearless, who are compelled by the vision that God has put on the Crown Church and who are prepared to put themselves on the line for Jesus. Are you part of this army? Do you feel compelled to be in this army?

4. Instruction and Victory

God gave Gideon faith through a prophetic story (Chap 7 vs. 13-16) and his fear turned to worship of God. Faith replaced fear and he put aside his weaknesses to lean on God and follow His call.

5. And so...

Many of us may rule ourselves out from serving or getting involved in church for a number of reasons. Some of us may even be passive and our faith has gone to 'autopilot.' BUT Jesus is calling us into something that's counter-cultural, something that's different. He's calling us to build His church and be a part of His army to reach the borough and beyond! Each one of us has a part to play!

Q's for cell:

1. In what ways have you ruled yourself out from getting involved in serving and leading?
2. Apart from cell and set up, what else could you or do you do to get involved church wise?
3. God called Gideon 'mighty warrior,' how do you think God sees you in terms of his big kingdom plans?
4. **'I have no bitterness's; I have a mission to complete.'** (Nelson Mandela) What bitterness's are you holding that prevent you from serving?
5. Spiritually and, in terms of responsibilities within the church, where do you see yourself in five years time?
6. What 'devouring locusts' do you see in your area or the borough?
 - 6.a. Does it convict you to act?
 - 6.b. Apart from prayer, what can you do about it? (Individually and as a cell)

