

# Bible Baptist Church

## Adult Bible Study

April 19, 2026

Lesson 4.2



**Text:** Judges 8:1-23 (1-4); II Timothy 4:7,8

**Judges 8:1-23 (1-4);**

*8 And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.*

*2 And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?*

*3 God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.*

*4 And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.*

*5 And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they be faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.*

*6 And the princes of Succoth said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?*

*7 And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.*

*8 And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered him.*

*9 And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.*

*10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.*

*11 And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host; for the host was secure.*

*12 And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host.*

*13 And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun was up,*

*14 And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and enquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, even threescore and seventeen men.*

*15 And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men that are weary?*

*16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.*

*17 And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.*

*18 Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men were they whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou art, so were they; each one resembled the children of a king.*

*19 And he said, They were my brethren, even the sons of my mother: as the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.*

*20 And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, and slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he was yet a youth.*

*21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and fall upon us: for as the man is, so is his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that were on their camels' necks.*

*22 Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.*

*23 And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.*

## **II Timothy 4:7,8**

*7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

*8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

**Introduction:** What is persistence? Is persistence important? It is important to finish your job assignment? In this lesson we are introduced to four foes which sought after Gideon to foil his attempts to finish God's assignments and these four foes will do the same to us if we are not careful.

**Lesson:** Think about this – Gideon knew the importance of finishing strong. The Lord orchestrated an overwhelming victory against the Midianites and Amalekites. He used 300 men with torches (lamp), pitchers and trumpets to defeat this massive army! But Gideon knew the most dangerous time for a leader follows on the heels of victory. So the difference between those who complete God's tasks and those who do not is a God-empowered resolution to resist their enemies at every point of attack.

Let's look how Gideon finished the Lord's task in spite of the different obstacles, and how we can apply these principals to our lives today.

- I. **He finished in spite of criticism** – Judges 8
  - a. **Ephraim was selfish** – vrs. 1 – You notice their problem was they were selfish – just caring about themselves and they thought they were better than others – (They had the same attitude with Joshua – Joshua 17:14 ). Why were they mad?

## **Joshua 17:14**

*14 And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, Why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a great people, forasmuch as the LORD hath blessed me hitherto?*

- i. They were upset because they were not called out to battle – vrs. 1b – Why? Well the Lord had a specific battle plan that He gave to Gideon, that did not include Ephraim.
  1. Rationale – the Lord knew that they were a prideful and dominant tribe. Remember the Lord wanted to work a great victory for **HIS Glory** and not based on the people – 7:2

No matter how great of a victory – there will always be those around (even in the Lord’s camp or today----“the church” looking for a reason to criticize). Look how Gideon responded to this criticism ---

- b. **Gideon was selfless** – vrs. 2,3 – Gideon could have easily bragged about everything and how the Lord used him, but he put the spotlight on them. He told them that they were greater than himself as they took care of the grapes of Ephraim than the battle in Abiezer. Because of this, their anger was subsided. Oh how, we need to exercise this characteristic of the Spirit of God in our lives – Proverbs 15:1; 16:32; Galatians 5:22,23

**Proverbs 15:1;**

*15 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

**16:32;**

*<sup>32</sup> He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

**Galatians 5:22,23**

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

*<sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

We should not be selfish and just caring for ourselves!! Even Jesus taught this is the lesson of “The Good Samaritan” in \*\*\*Luke 10:25-37. I Corinthians 13:4,5; Philippians 2:3-4; James 3:16

**\*\*\*Luke 10:25-37.**

*25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*

*26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?*

*27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*

*28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.*

*29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?*

*30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.*

*31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*

*32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.*

*33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,*

*34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*

*35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.*

*36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?*

*<sup>37</sup> And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*

### **I Corinthians 13:4,5;**

*<sup>4</sup> Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*

*<sup>5</sup> Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*

### **Philippians 2:3-4;**

*<sup>3</sup> Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

*<sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

### **James 3:16**

*<sup>16</sup> For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*

- II. **He finished in spite of fatigue** – Judges 8:4 – even though they fought this battle all night and now into the morning, but they continued the pursuit. Remember – anyone who achieves anything of eternal worth (those heavenly treasures) must win the war against exhaustion. So how did Gideon do it? There were three observations that he experienced:

### **Judges 8:4**

*<sup>4</sup> And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.*

- a. **The voice of the past** – vrs. 6:14 – Remember God told him, “Go in this thy might and thou shalt save Israel...”. He knew that the Lord called and put His hand

upon him for this work, so he kept on going. We too, need to remember what the Lord has done for us and that should keep us going. I Thessalonians 5:24

- b. **The victory of the present** – vrs. 7:21 – He witnessed the victory as he and his army of 300 watched the Midianites kill each other and run for safety. We too, need to realize that the Lord has given us victory through the Lord Jesus Christ – I Corinthians 15:57

### **I Corinthians 15:57**

*<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Note – So when adversity brings a dark shadow over your life, just pause to recall God’s faithfulness in the past. This same God is the same God who is going to help you and I finish the Lord’s assignment that He has called us to do! (I Corinthians 1:9a; II Thessalonians 3:3a)

### **I Corinthians 1:9a;**

*<sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **II Thessalonians 3:3a**

*<sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.*

- c. **The vision of the future** – vrs. 5d – Here we see Gideon requesting bread for his men so he can continue to pursue the Midianites. He knew that the job had to be complete in order to have peace in Israel. But now this brings us to our next foe.

### **III. He finished in spite of indifference – Judges 8:5,6**

- a. **The uncaring heart of indifference** – vrs. 5,6 – where there are indifferences – there is no concern or a non-caring heart. The men of Succoth just cared about themselves and the “what-ifs”.

### **Judges 8:5,6**

*<sup>5</sup> And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they be faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.*

*<sup>6</sup> And the princes of Succoth said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?*

- b. **The unbelieving heart of indifference** – vrs. 7-9 – these men did not believe that Gideon would win the victory. Notice what Gideon told them:
  - i. When I return in peace – I will tear down your tower – vrs. 9 – He kept his promise vrs. 15-17

IV. **He finished in spite of temptation** – Judges 8:22,23 – can you imagine this – remember:

**Judges 8:22,23**

*<sup>22</sup> Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.*

*<sup>23</sup> And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.*

- a. Gideon was afraid and hiding behind a winepress.
  - b. Gideon considered himself as insufficient and a no-body.
  - c. Gideon needed assurance from the Lord for the battle.
- But now the people wanted him to be their ruler or king. What a great temptation that must have been going from a nobody to the next “king”. But notice what Gideon told them – vrs. 23 – “...the Lord shall rule over you.”

He did not let the temptation of pride or prestige over take him, but remain humble before the Lord – Proverbs 16:18; 22:4; James 4:10; I Peter 5:6

**Proverbs 16:18;**

*<sup>18</sup> Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

**22:4;**

*<sup>4</sup> By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*

**James 4:10;**

*<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

## **I Peter 5:6**

*<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

**Conclusion:** What does the Lord want you to finish? The sad thing about those who don't finish, is that they often quit just before victory's arrival --- don't quit – keep on to the finish line.

II Timothy 4:7

## **II Timothy 4:7**

*<sup>7</sup> I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*