

“The Danger of Success” Judges 8:13-35

1. As Gideon returns from battle, he forces a young man of Succoth to write down the names of the city's 77 officials. How does Gideon then proceed to carry out his previous threat (from last week) to punish the elders of the city and also punish the city of Peniel?

2. Having captured the two Midianite kings, Zebah and Zalmunna, he interrogates them about an incident that happened at Tabor (v. 18). What does Gideon ask of them?

Who are these men that the Midianites have killed at Tabor?

3. What does Gideon ask his firstborn son to do in regards to these two kings?

How does his son respond?

4. Following this significant victory, the Israelites request in verse 22 that Gideon rule as king over them and establish a dynasty (“Rule over us, both you and your son, also your son’s son”).

What is Gideon’s beautiful response in verse 22: “_____ shall rule over you.”

5. Although Gideon rejects kingship, what does he request of the people (v. 24)?

6. Following his great moment in verse 22, Gideon sadly takes all the gold and makes an ephod out of it. The nature of this ephod is not clear but it may have been patterned after the short outer garment worn by the high priest. But rather than being worn, this gold ephod is set up as an idol that people begin to worship. This great conqueror becomes a great compromiser. What does this idol become to Gideon and his family (v. 27b)?

7. As a result of Gideon’s rout of the Midianites, there is a period of peace for 40 years (the last period of peace recorded in Judges).

We learn that Gideon (“Jerubbaal”—Judges 6:32) had many wives and 70 sons and a concubine that bore him a son. What is his name? (v. 31)

This sets the stage for the next downward spiral of sin and apostasy which begins after Gideon’s death.

8. What happens as soon as Gideon dies (v. 33)?

What do the sons of Israel fail to do in verses 34-35?

9. Perhaps without realizing it, what are ways in which we compromise by setting up idols in our lives?