

Planning Ahead For Phenomenal Success

Script - Jer. 29:11-13

- A. Introducing the concept - TV Commercial - small children saying they want to grow up to fail or be worthless. (Abused, poverty stricken, hungry, drunk) Illustrates the need for planning ahead. But it is hard to factor in everything in life because of all the unknowns. Accidents, unplanned for events that take place, etc. We base our planning on the known variables.
1. Illustrations in life (Baking a cake, buying a house, buying a car).
 2. Biblical illustrations
 - a. The 2nd coming (Lk. 12:40).
 - b. Building a tower (Lk. 14:28-30).
 - c. Going to war (Lk. 14:31-32).
- B. The story of Gideon (Judges 6-7).
Introduction to the story (Key issues in the story).
- a. The setting of the story (The valley of Jezreel) and the importance of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16).
 - b. The ingredients of this story (God, Faith, the value that God places on us).
1. God's people strayed from him and were impoverished by the Midianites (Judges 6:1-10).
 2. God's appeal to Gideon and his call to get involved (Judges 6:11-21).
 3. Gideon 1st task from God is to tear down Baal's altar (Judges 6:25-27).
 4. Gideon then proceeds to gather Israel's army to fight against the Midianites (Judges 6:34-35).
 5. Gideon asked for an additional sign from God (Throwing out the fleece) (Judges 6:36-40).
 6. God tells Gideon that too many have responded to his call so send some home. The normal instructions were not given when they called the army together (Deut. 20:5-8).
 7. Gideon makes the announcement and 22,000 walk away.
 8. God says there are still too many, so God test those that responded (Judges 7:4-8).
 9. Gideon is told to advance on the enemy (300 against 120,000) so God tells Gideon he will strengthen Gideon's hand by revealing a dream he gave to the Midianites (Judges 7:9-15).
 10. God then gives Gideon the plan of attack and he is victorious by killing 120,000 midianites (Judges 7:16-21, 8:10).
- C. How does this help us today?
1. Gideon does not feel capable or worthy of the leadership role that God has for him (Judges 6:14-15), but when he accepted God's call it allowed a phenomenal victory to take place.
 2. Acting in faith produces results we could never match or obtain by ourselves (Eph. 3:20, Isa. 55:8-9, Lk. 18:8; faith factor- Segan's Medical dictionary).
 3. Gideon had doubts along the way, but he was able to voice those concerns to God and was guided to a great victory.
 4. God is still able to "strengthen our hand" today, guide our pathway, and reveal his plans to accomplish great things for his name and our benefit (1 Cor. 2:9).