



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 22

Lesson Title: The Rescue Is By the Power of God

Take Home Point: God wants us to live in his power not our own.

Warm-Up:

When my son was about ten years old, we had a birthday party for him that included a pinata. Before the party, we stuffed as much candy as we could into the little papier-mache donkey. When we showed it to him, he was so excited! And when we told him it was filled with candy, he was really excited! Then we told him that all he had to do was break it so he and his friends could grab and eat. Oh, he was not so excited about that. He liked the pinata just the way it was. He didn't want to break it. He wanted to keep it, but he wanted the candy, too.

Read: Judges 7

Observation (What happened?):

Why did God reduce the number of Israelites who would take part in Israel being delivered from the Midianites?

How many Midianites were in the camp? How many weapons did Gideon's 300 have to face the Midianites?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you learn from God's offer to Gideon that he could go down and listen to the camp talk if he was afraid?

Do you think Gideon or the other Israelites had any idea how God was going to give them the victory?

Insight:

"Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free;
Force me to render up my sword and I shall a conqueror be.
I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand;
Imprison me within your arms and strong shall be my hand."

When George Matheson wrote these words over 100 years ago, he captured the essence of the seeming paradox Christians face – to truly win, we must give up on our own strength and let God do his work. In fact, that's what Jesus did at the cross; he died so that all could live. What God did with Gideon's army is not so different from what he wants to do with us, which is to show us that spiritual victory comes from his hand. Like Gideon, all we need to do is believe God's promises and claim them.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What battle are you facing in your life that God wants to win by his power? What self-reliance do you have to give up for this to happen?

Tell at least one person this week about a victory God won for you when your situation seemed hopeless.