

Home Group Questions

the week of 02/10/2019

Judges 2-6

THE DANGER OF COMPLACENCY

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the “Ordinary Superheroes of the O.T.”. This week focused on the period of the Judges which lasted 400 years during which the Israelites became complacent about their faith and consistently fell into sin and servitude.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Joshua 2:8-14. Joshua dies and many of those who had conquered the land passed away as well. The next generation chose not to remember the works of the Lord on behalf of Israel and fell into the sin of idolatry as well as other evils. These “2nd generation believers” were not passionate about their faith. Discuss as a home group the challenges that 2nd generation believers face and what parents can do in their homes to celebrate the positives of being raised in a Christian home but also how to overcome the negative challenges that 2nd generation believers (i.e. children) face in the development of their faith.

There are times in the life of the believer when we feel distracted by the “things of this world” and by “temptations that distract us from our faith”. What would you tell a new believer that evidences wonderful excitement for his/her faith, but faces a life of living in a challenging world? What advice would you give to try to avoid slipping into complacency, and even compromise in their faith and walk with Jesus Christ.

2. Read Judges 4:1-15. The Lord told Barak to gather 10,000 men and defeat Sisera, the enemy leader. Barak did not act on God’s Word until Deborah comes and challenges him to do so. He demands that Deborah go into battle with him and his army, or he

will refuse to go. Deborah leads them into battle and a great victory is won. What lessons can we learn from Barak and Deborah, and the contrasting response they had to the Word of God? How does that relate to situations that we face today, and challenges that we are seeking to conquer? What are some times in your life that you have found it difficult to follow what the Word of God says (i.e. when emotions or hurt feelings get in the way)?

3. Read Judges 6:36-40. What does this demand for a sign say about Gideon and his attitude toward the Word of God? Gideon starts off slowly as we can see here but later becomes a strong leader for the nation of Israel. Is it normal to demand a sign from God like Gideon does? What does this say about the patience of our God? Read Matthew 12:38-42. What does this passage say about believers who demand a sign from God instead of just following the Word of God, and the signs that have already been given in God’s Word.? Why do you think God “humors” Gideon here by honoring his demand for a sign? What are the problems with looking for “signs” in your life before you act or make a major decision?

4. Read 2 Timothy 2:15-26. Paul gives some wonderful qualities of a servant (workman) of the Lord in this passage. Take some time to identify characteristics in this passage of a person who puts God in his rightful place and lives the life of a servant.

5. Read Philippians 2:12-16. Working out your salvation with fear and trembling (v. 12) refers to taking the implications of your saving faith in Christ and allowing those truths to change every aspect of your life. Here’s a list of things that will hinder your growth in the Lord. Read over the list and identify ways in which each of these aspects can be seen in our lives, and ways in which we can combat them as we grow in our maturity:

Indications that we are derailing God’s strategy:

- ◆ **Complacency**
- ◆ **Small Compromises**
- ◆ **Self-centered lifestyle**
- ◆ **Unteachable spirit/Pride**
- ◆ **Busyness**