

Three Tests of Leadership

by Jim Rinker



[Account from Robert's Holmes Vision]

"As I read through the account of Gideon in Judges 6-8 several things strikeme about them. If this army is a picture of the remnant, then it will help to see what they had, and what they did.

Firstly, they were twice refined. At first a great number of men gathered to fight (32,000 in all). During the first purging the Lord removed those who had the fear of man. This took their number down to 10,000. In my vision I saw the battalion (10,000 men) Labeled as Gideon's army. This seems to indicate that the assembling Battalion has already been refined of the fear of man. The second purging Gideon's army underwent was to remove those who trusted in their own Strength. This took their number down to 300. The present Gideon's army (the one of my vision) may expect this second purging next".

Fear of Men

Exodus 32 also shows a similar picture in Moses and Aaron. Aaron feared the people and had caved in under the pressure of the masses whose hearts were corrupt.

The account is in Exodus 32:1-5 {edited}

"...the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us...And all the people brake off the golden earrings which [were] in their ears, and brought [them] unto Aaron...And he...fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These [be] thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw [it], he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow [is] a feast to the LORD".

God is currently molding those who will be used as channels for His glory. The fear of men will make us compromise in order to please the people...a people whose hearts are not right with God.

Delusions of Grandeur

Those who get past the fear of men will next be tested with delusions of grandeur. God did this with Moses a few verses later:

Exodus 32:10 "Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of <<thee>> a great nation".

God had promised Moses that He would make a great nation out of him alone...what a temptation!...Moses response was to intercede for the people. God often presents us with certain things to see if we are truly ready to be channels for His glory or in more refining needs to be done. In a sense, Moses is a type of Christ...standing before the throne of God interceding on behalf of those who cannot yet stand for themselves.

Trusting in Our Own Strength

Exodus 33:13 "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace

in thy sight: and consider that this nation [is] thy people.

And he said, My presence shall go [with thee], and I will give thee rest.

And he said unto him,

If thy presence go not [with me], carry us not up hence.

For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight?

[is it] not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that [are] upon the face of the earth.

And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast

found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name”.

Moses wanted to know the ways of the Lord...knowing His ways are found by walking with God through the wilderness. Notice also that God says when I go with you, I will give you rest...it is when we want to know His ways that we can find rest...even in the midst of the terrible wilderness with 600,000 people breathing down your neck.

Moses said that he would not even go if God's presence was with Him. Moses wanted to do more than just lead the people (fear of men) or make a name for himself (delusions of grandeur), he wanted to know God's ways (trusting in our own strength). Likewise, when we want to know His ways and <<continue>> to press into the kingdom...we will also be proven worthy vessels...channels for His glory.