

I. Gideon's Faithfulness (vv 22-23).

- A.** Israel's Desire for a King – Israel did not understand:
- 1) Gideon was called by God as a servant of God
 - 2) God delivered Israel, not Gideon
 - 3) God has already established His rule, His Law and Order
 - 4) God is the ruler, not a man
 - 5) Israel did not even have the right to choose their own king, as he would be a man appointed and anointed by God (Dt 17:15)
- B.** Gideon, understanding these things, refused their request
- C.** Uses from the Text
- 1) Beware the temptation to look only to the means God has used to answer our prayer.
 - 2) Look rather to God and give thanks!

II. Gideon's Unfaithfulness (vv 24-27, 29-31).

- A.** Gideon's Making an Ephod
- 1) The Progression of Problems
 - a) Problem Number 1: Entitlement
 - b) Problem Number 2: Taking the Spoils of War
 - c) Problem Number 3: Making an Ephod
 - i. What is an Ephod? (Ex 28:6-14).
 - ii. Why is the making of this ephod a grievous sin?
 - d) Problem Number 4: Making the Ephod Prominent
 - e) Problem Number 5: Open Idolatry and Sinfulness
 - 2) Where are the faithful priests and fathers (Jsh 22:10-12)?!
 - 3) Observations about False Worship
 - a) False worship is almost always flashy.
 - b) What begins as a violation of the second commandment will eventually become a violation of the first commandment.
 - c) What begins as a violation of the first table will eventually become grounds for violating the second table.
 - 4) Observations about Sin
 - a) Sin swims downstream, from superiors to inferiors.
 - b) Sin is covenantal, dealing with all aspects of our relationships both with God and one another.
- B.** Gideon's Having Many Wives
- 1) Dealing with the common question: Why does the Old Testament not outrightly condemn polygamy?

- a) It does, by positive prescription (Gen 2:24)
 - b) It does, by the moral implications of historical narrative.
- 2) Observations about the Generational Effects of Sin
 - a) Generational sin is severe in its consequences.
 - b) Generational sin is often continued.
 - c) Generational sin is often compounded.
- C.** Uses from the Text
- 1) How do you use times of peace and ease?
 - 2) We must have a right view of ourselves.

III. The Lord's Faithfulness (vv 28, 32).

- A.** To save Israel
- B.** To grant peace
- C.** In Gideon's death
- 1) His long life, that Gideon should be allowed to serve the Lord well as Israel's judge and enjoy the gifts of this life.
 - 2) His death in the Lord.
 - 3) His burial, which was a sign that he was looking to the one who is the resurrection and the life (Jb 19:25-27)
 - 4) His identity among the Church even in death.
- D.** Uses from the Text
- 1) We must have a right view of God (Heb 11:32-33a, 38)
 - 2) The hope of the resurrection is to be ever before us.

IV. Israel's Unfaithfulness (vv 33-35).

- A.** The immediacy of their apostasy
- B.** Returning to their idolatry
- C.** Forgetting of God (Jer 2:13)
- D.** Forgetting of Gideon's family
- E.** Uses from the Text
- 1) Unlike these Israelites, let us know and practice true repentance. (*Larger Catechism* 76)
 - 2) Warning Signs of Apostasy and their Remedies (1 Cor 10:6)
 - a) Being too dependent upon another for our obedience.
 - b) Giving way to regular sin, whether private or public.
 - c) Neglecting our duties toward God, indeed to forget God Himself, to become a practical atheist.
 - d) Disregarding your elders and the counsel they may give to you (Heb 13:17)