

Every Man Stood In His Place

By Bubba Garner

“And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.” Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, ‘The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!’ ” So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath. And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites. Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, “Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.” Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan. And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.” (Judges 7:15-25)

Gideon’s defeat of the mighty Midian alliance has to be one of the greatest upsets in the history of war. Through the hand of the Lord, the underdog prevailed that day because “every man stood in his place” (vs. 21).

The Midianites had joined forces with the Amalekites and the sons of the east. Their army was as innumerable as the locusts (6:5) and as the sand of the seashore (7:12), about 135,000 men strong (8:10). Enter Gideon’s army of 300. For every Israelite soldier, there were 450 on the other side. Yet every man stood in his place.

Gideon’s band had no military training. In fact, one of the reasons the Lord did not drive out all of the nations of Canaan when they inhabited the land was so that “the sons of Israel might be taught war” (3:2). Yet, when the battle began, every man stood in his place.

This ragtag army was greatly mismatched in number and skill and showed up to fight with a torch, a pitcher and a trumpet. Yet every man stood in his place.

Didn’t they know they weren’t supposed to win? No, because they had an alliance with God, who is “not restrained to save by many or by few” (1 Sam. 14:6). They knew they were marching under His leadership, fighting a battle He had already won. When you’re with the Lord, it’s the other side that’s mismatched. So find your place and stand.

Mini Sermons

“We who have lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing -- the last of human freedoms -- to choose one’s attitude in any given sets of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.” (Viktor Frankl)

“To know Christ is to become so one with Him that we share His every experience. It means that we share the way He walked; that we share the cross He bore; that we share the death He died; and that finally, we share the life He lives forevermore.” (William Barclay)

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20). Holment Hunt, a famous English painter, in the late 1800’s painted a masterpiece entitled, “Christ at the door.” It is said that when Mr. Hunt had finished his painting, he displayed it for the critics. As it was unveiled, one of the critics replied with laughter, “You forgot to put a latch on the door.” The great artist replied, “There is no latch on the door; the latch is on

the inside.” When we examine a reproduction of Hunt's, “Christ at the door,” we will see no latch on the door. Truly, the latch is on the inside. If Jesus comes into our lives, it will not be because He forced His way in, but because we opened the door by submission to Him.

All the Evil in the World

All the water in the world,
However hard it tried,
Could never, never sink a ship
Unless it got inside.

All the evil in the world,
The wickedness and sin,
Can never sink your soul's fair craft,
Unless you let it in.
(AC Hoffman)

A Moments Wisdom

- A mind unemployed is a mind un-enjoyed.
- An education seldom hurts a man as long as he is willing to continue learning after he graduates.
- It is always easy the night before to get up early the next morning.
- Faith enables us to stand what we cannot understand.
- If you ask enough people, you will eventually find someone who will advise you to do what you were going to do anyway.
- The bitterest cup with Christ is better than the sweetest cup without Him.
- Nothing cooks your goose quicker than a boiling temper.
- No matter how much we may dread the future, we certainly want to be around to see it.
- Charity sees the need, not the cause.
- It is not the promise that makes us believe the man, but the man that makes us believe the promise.
- Definition of an opinion: a definite conclusion reached after examining one's own preconceived ideas.
- You can judge a man, not only by the company he keeps, but also by the jokes he tells.
- There is a vast difference between attraction and attachment; many are attracted to Christ, but few are attached to Him.
- Instead of moaning over the fact that we haven't gotten everything we want, we should rejoice over the fact that we haven't gotten all we deserve.
- The trouble with many of us is that we like to be near enough to bask in Christ's glory, but not close enough to help carry the cross.
- A duty is a task we look forward to with distaste, perform with reluctance, and boast about it afterward.
- Small minds are easily wounded by small things.
- Troubles, like babies, grow larger by nursing them.
- The best way to get a person's head out of the clouds and his feet on the ground is to put a heavy responsibility on his shoulders.
- A weakness recognized is a weakness half overcome.
- I do not care much for your faith if it cannot be seen. Lamps do not talk; they shine.
- Sometimes it takes a lot of scratching around to get out of a situation we were itching to get into.
- Between the great things that we cannot do and the small things that we will not be bothered to do lies the great danger that we will do nothing.