



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, July 18, 2021 | Pastor Justin Waples

“Disunity of a Community”

Judges 8

1. God alone judges the heart.
(Judges 8:1-3)
2. God alone sustains.
(Judges 8:4-21)
3. God alone is to be worshiped.
(Judges 8:22-28)

4. God alone is the true judge.
(Judges 8:29-35)

Table Talk

- 1) Why did the men of Ephraim want so badly to be included in the battle to kill the Midianites? (8:1) Were they just in their accusations against Gideon to spread this disunity? When is the last time you were unjustly dealt with when you did something good? Did you seek to judge the heart of men, or did you allow God to provide peace and comfort amidst the reactions of the world? Has God ever provided someone you know something that you wished you had received? How will your heart be judged by God due to your pride?
- 2) Why didn't the men of Succoth want to provide bread to Gideon's men? (8:5-6) How does withholding within community breed disunity? What have you been denied before and how did you react? How has God sustained you in times of need? What are examples of when Christ was in need throughout the New Testament? Was Gideon's punishment on the men of Succoth appropriate? (8:16) Why or why not? What are examples of God's punishments?
- 3) Have you ever refused a position of leadership and for what reason? Was Gideon being prideful in rejecting the role of King? (8:22-23) How does rejecting the position hamper his community? Why did he say he and his sons would not rule? Have you ever or have you ever seen someone create a memorial that turned into an idol? How was the ephod an idol and what else might it have been used for? (8:27) What snares do we have in our life? How can we lay them at God's feet for relief?
- 4) What is the importance of noting Gideon had children from so many wives and a concubine? (8:30-31) How does this impact his legacy? Why did the people of Israel turn again to the Baals? (8:33) How could they reasonably forget what the Lord had done for them? How quickly do we forget what God has done for us and turn against those in our community? Our neighbors? Our coworkers? Why did they not show love for Gideon's family? (8:34-35) Whom have you treated unfairly and what should your response be now?