

You Want Me To Do What?!



Judges 7:1-24a

Introduction

- What stands out?
- For me things that stand out are:
 - The ridiculous battle plan
 - God's confirmation for Gideon
 - No Israelite died in battle

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- Some family history
 - Gideon is the son of Joash
 - Gideon's response to God to lead the battle is that his clan is the weakest of Manasseh and that he is the least in the family
 - Because of Israel's disobedience they have been suffering 7 years
 - Israelites had built alters to Baal, put up Asherah poles, and mixed worship of fertility gods with that of Yahweh

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- Some family history
 - The Midianites, Amalekites, and other Eastern peoples plundered their crops, stole livestock, and everyone was afraid to stand up to them
 - God calls Gideon to destroy the alter to Baal and Asherah pole of his father
 - Gideon obeys but does it by night
 - Then God gives Gideon a sign
 - What does Gideon do next?

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- The battle plan
 - Gideon puts out a call for fighting force from his tribe and beyond – 32,000 respond
 - Midianites and Amalekites number 135,000
 - Gideon asks if anyone wants to go home and loses 22,000 men
 - 9,700 men whom got down on their knees to get water were sent home leaving only 300
 - The 300 men armed with trumpets, torches, and glass jars under God's power succeed

Lessons For Us

- God uses the unlikely to accomplish His purposes
- God is the one who empowers us for the victory
- God often uses an unlikely strategy for victory
- God is looking for risk takers – people willing to operate outside their comfort zone to consider new possibilities to do His work

A Final Word

- What was the rest of the story regarding Gideon's downfall?
 - Gideon requested plunder
 - Gideon took it back to Ophrah, his home town, and placed it out for everyone to see
 - Israelites began to worship it as if Gideon had brought forth the victory, not God
 - After Gideon dies, they go right back to worshiping Baal and forgot God
- This needs to be a warning to us in times of victory – it is easy to lose sight of who gave us the victory