

When Doing What God Wants

Judges 8

Introduction:

- A. People and their needs and wants
 - 1. A need is something that if done without will adversely affect h_____ or safety.
 - 2. There are many things that we want but don't need.
- B. God and His needs and wants
 - 1. Does God need anything? _____
 - 2. Does God want anything? _____
 - 3. Does God always get what He wants? _____
- C. The Christian life is a relationship to God through Jesus in which we s_____ to do what God wants.
 - a. We n_____ to do what God wants
 - b. When we don't do what God wants, it adversely affects us.

_____ect Opposition (1-21)

- A. Gideon and his 300 men were exhausted and hungry in their pursuit of the two k_____ of Midian and their army of 15,000.
 - 1. He entered into Succoth and politely asked for b_____ to feed them. They refused because Gideon and his men had not captured the Midianite kings yet.
 - 2. He entered into Penuel and gave the same request and got the s_____ response.
- B. Why should we expect opposition when doing what God wants?
 - 1. Because God's ways usually go against the g_____ of the world's ways (1 Jn 3:13; Jn 15:19; Acts 14:22).
 - 2. Because S_____ does not want us to do what God wants.
 - 3. Because sometimes fellow believers are so out of t_____ with God that they complain and criticize those doing God's will.
 - 4. However, this does not mean that there will always be opposition when doing God wants. We just should not be surprised by it.

_____ect people back to God (22,23)

- A. Once Gideon and his army of 300 defeated the remaining army and killed the two Midianite kings:
 - 1. There was no more o_____.
 - 2. The people of Israel wanted to make Gideon their k_____, so that he rule over them as well as his sons.
 - 3. Gideon directed people back to God by refusing their request and stating that they were to have the L_____ rule over them.

- B. Sometimes people, when they see your obedience to God, will e_____ you to a position that God does not want you to be in.
1. Pastors who have had “s_____” in growing a church and leave the pastorate to become church growth experts. (but see Acts 2:47 and I Cor 3:6,7 to see what causes growth). Such pastors must direct people to God.
 2. When you help a person in need (physical or spiritual), they may see you as their “g_____” person. Direct them back to God as the provider.

_____ect being a stumbling block (24-27)

- A. Gideon had each person give a gold earring from their s_____ of war, by which he funded the making of an ephod.
1. An ephod (Ex 28) – it is the upper clothing of the h_____ p_____.
 2. He set the ephod in his hometown, possibly as a personal reminder of what God did through him.
 3. The people of Israel played the h_____ with the ephod, which means that they worshipped it (a picture of unfaithfulness to the Lord as their only God).
- B. The ephod became a s_____ to him and his sons.
1. Gideon should have d_____ the ephod.
 2. The fact that he did not, shows that this reminder was more i_____ to him than being a stumbling block.
- C. Our freedom should never be i_____ on if it causes a fellow believer to stumble into sin.
1. Drinking alcohol
 - a. The Bible condemns the a_____ of alcohol (Eph 5:18)
 - b. There are believers that can drink alcohol without abusing it, but others who cannot.
 - c. Never insist on your freedom at the expense of another’s downfall (Matt 18:16).
 2. Respecting weaknesses – we all have them
 - a. Prone to lose temper – don’t purposely push their b_____
 - b. Prone to gossip – don’t t_____ them with confidential information.

Conclusion:

Remember these principles when doing what God wants:

1. E_____ opposition
2. D_____ people back to God
3. R_____ being a stumbling block.