

THE SNARE OF VICTORY

Gideon's army of 300 soundly defeated a superior equipped coalition army of 135,000 because of the grace of God (8:28).

The men of Israel realized they had a good thing in Gideon and demanded that he establish a family dynasty rulership for Israel (8:22-23).

Gideon's refusal was doctrinally correct – "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you (theocracy)." (8:23)

However, Gideon went from this spiritual high ground of victory to low ground of defeat by ONE BAD DECISION that led to the title of our lesson, SNARE OF VICTORY.

Gideon suffered the defeat of the Snare of Victory when he took the spoils of grace victory and promoted idolatrous religion with them.

We will study our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

- Request (8:24-25) – spoils of warfare
- Registration (8:26) – spoils of Ishmaelites
- Religious relic (8:27a) – snare of victory - priestly Ephod
- Reversionism (8:27b) – spiritual harlot
- Remiss (8:28) – spiritual rewards associated with grace victory

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the SNARE OF VICTORY
That led Gideon to cause Israel to suffer a great spiritual defeat.**

1. The Snare of Victory teaches us that sometimes the greatest struggles in CWL come from prosperity testing rather than adversity testing (James 1:2-4).

Gideon had won a strategic victory over the Midianites and over the temptation to rule in the place of God. Yet Gideon suffered a terrible defeat regarding the SNARE OF VICTORY with the spoils of warfare and by making the priestly Ephod.

This lesson will teach the spiritual advancing mature believer that he must walk by faith THROUGH EVERY DECISION of CWL (2 Cor.5:7). "This is the victory that overcomes the world – our faith."
(1 John 5:4)

The Bible is full of examples of the doctrinal principle. Here are two.

- Elijah – 1 Kings 18-19 (victory over prophets of Baal and defeat with Jezebel).
- Lot's wife – Gen.19 (Victory of physically leaving Sodom and defeat of not spiritually leaving it/ Luke 17:32).

2. There are two qualifications for church ordination of spiritual gifted communicators regarding the snare of the Devil.

The Christian Church is instructed to **not ordain new converts** into the teaching or preaching ministry – "lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil." (1 Tim.3:6).

The church is also instructed to **not ordain** a spiritual gifted communicator **if he does not have a good reputation with those outside the church** – “so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (1 Tim.3:7)

In Paul's instruction to the ordained communicators, he warns them about the snare of the Devil involved in active service (2 Tim.2:24-26).

3. The Bible warns of snares of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking rather than New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking. Here are 5 examples.

- Snare of addictions such as dissipation, drunkenness, and worries of life that distract the person from spiritual truths for his life (Luke 21:34; Prov.12:25).
- Snare of sins of tongue (Prov.12: 13-14, 17,19,22; 29:5/ lying, deceit, slander, gossip, false witness, flattery).
- Snare of cosmos fear (Prov.29: 25; Luke 12:42-42).
- Snare of anger (Prov.14: 29-30; 17:14; 18:6-7; 20:3; 22:24-25; 29:11, 22).
- Snare of greed (1 Tim.6: 9-10).

4. The Bible warns of the snare from either outside or inside the marriage covenant (1 Sam.18: 20-21, 29; 1 Cor.7: 5).

“It is a snare for a man to say rashly, ‘It is holy.’ And after the vows to make inquiry.” (Prov.20: 25 / NAS) “It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.” (NIV)
David was guilty of this with Bathsheba (2 Sam.12: 9, 12-13).

King Saul had offered a reward for killing Goliath (1 Sam.17: 25) to enrich, marry daughter, free from taxation).

When it came time to reward David, Saul tried to kill him personally as well as in combat and then refused the marriage of his oldest daughter as a way to humiliate David (1 Sam.18: 10-19).

When Saul realized that his younger daughter, Michal, was in love with David, he decided to give her to David in marriage as a snare to get rid of David (1 Sam.18: 20-21, 28-29). However, it also failed because of the providential will of God for David.

“They hold fast to themselves an evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly.” (Ps.64:5)

“Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” (1 Cor.7:5)

5. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus Christ would be a snare to those who reject Him as Savior (Isa.8: 14-15; Luke 2:34-35; Ps.69: 22-23; Rom.11: 9-10; 1 Cor.1: 23; 1 Pet.2: 7-8).