

GIDEON'S ACHILLES HEEL

Last week we studied how Gideon went from the spiritual high ground of victory to the low ground of defeat by one bad decision regarding the SPOILS OF VICTORY. He wanted to leave an EPHOD trophy as a legacy of this great grace victory.

This lesson gives the obituary of Gideon's life after his victory over the Midianites. We will study our lesson text regarding Gideon's obituary by the following four homiletical points.

- Prominence community back home (8:29)
- Polygamous covenant of marriage broken (8:30)
- Promiscuous concubine of Shechem (8:31)
- Passed away croaked at ripe old age (8:32)

Gideon's obituary disclosed Gideon's Achilles heel. In Homer's Iliad, Achilles was the mythological Greek warrior of the Trojan War. He died when Paris wounded him in the heel. This was the only spot on his body where he could be fatally wounded.

"His mother Thetis when he was born had intended to make him invulnerable by dipping him into the River Styx, but she was careless and did not see to it that the water covered the part of the foot by which she was holding him." (Mythology by Edith Hamilton, pg.194)

According to Gideon's obituary, what was Gideon's Achilles heel?

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of Gideon's Achilles Heel as recorded in his obituary.

1. Every member of the human race has an OSN (old sin-nature) that resides in him because of AOS (Adam's original sin) (1 John 1:8-10). It is an inherent part of the flesh (birth to death).

"If we say that we have no sin (OSN), we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)

"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." (Ps.51:5)

"For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are escaping from those who live in error." (2 Pet.2:18/ NIV)

"Thus depraved false teachers prey on new converts, who have not yet had a chance to develop spiritual resistance." (NIV, 2 Pet.2:18)

2. The Old Sin Nature (OSN) is a source of all sorts of lustful cravings desiring gratification (Gal.5: 16-17).

"Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Rom.13:13-14, NIV)

3. Lust of the OSN is not sin but volitionally gratifying that lust is sin (Rom.6: 12-14).

"But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." (James 1:14-15)

4. Walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the only absolute power over the lust of the OSN and not will power.

“But I say, walk (peripateo / p.a.impv) by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh (OSN). For the flesh sets its desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” (Gal.5:16-17)

“Living by the promptings and power of the Spirit is the key to conquering sinful desires (see v.25; Rom.8:2-4).” (NIV, Gal.5:16)

5. Lust gratification of OSN attached to Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) develops patterns of sinful behavior (Prov.23: 7; Mark 7:18-23).

“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” (Eph.2: 3) (Rom.8: 5-7) mind set on flesh. (1 John 2:16-17) world and lust

When you study the fall of Adam and Eve, you discover that the only change in Garden of Eden was their belief regarding the truth of God’s word (2 Cor.11: 3).

6. When the OMCD becomes obsessed with certain categories of the lust of OSN, we refer to it as addictive patterns of behavior. If not corrected, it can lead to depravity life style (2 Tim.2:26; 4:3-4).

Let me mention three examples of this principle.

- David committed adultery and then murdered her husband (2 Sam.12: 7-10; John 8:44; 1 John 3:12).
- Amnon rapes his sister Tamar and her brother has him killed (2 Sam.13:1-19, 23,28,32). Sexual lust attached to OMCD leads to depravity behavior (Rom.1: 24-32). Evil distorts truth of God’s word. It solicits man to sin against the word of God (Adam and Eve/ Gen2-3).
- Gideon has a similar pattern of OMCD and OSN (sexual lust perversion/ polygamous and promiscuous) (Gal.6:7-8)

7. Recovery from this type of reversionism requires the believer to win on both fronts: OSN and OMCD (2 Cor.2: 11).

- You win over the OSN by walking by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16; 1 John 1:9).
- You win over OMCD thinking by putting off false beliefs and putting on true beliefs of New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) beliefs. (Eph.4: 22-24; Rom.12: 2; 1 John 5:4).