

“Lessons from Succoth and Penuel”

Judges 8:3-17

What can we learn from the bad decision made by Succoth and Penuel?

I. The Mistakes of Succoth and Penuel

A. Background:

1. Gideon continued to press the battle as God’s appointed military leader of Israel (General). -- **Judges 8:4-5**
2. His own people rejected Gideon and His men’s request for food. -- **Judges 8:6-9**
3. Again God gives the remaining Medianites into Gideon’s hand – **Judges 8:10-12**
4. Gideon returns to discipline the leaders of those who refused to help. -- **Judges 8:13-17**

II. What can we learn from the men of Succoth and Penuel?

A. Consider the _____ rather just your own.

1. They were selfish - what’s in it for me if I help you, if I contribute to what is needed. **Philippians 2:3-4** “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

B. Love your neighbor rather than _____.

1. They had no love except for themselves.
 - a. **1John 3:17** “But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

C. Do what is _____ rather than always do what is safe.

1. They were Cowards, and coward always do what is safe.
 - a. We are not to be afraid to do what is right. **James 4:17** “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
 - b. Cowards will be denied entry into the Kingdom -- **Revelation 21:7–8**

D. _____ the causes of God rather than ridicule it.

1. They had an utter lack of interest in the causes of God. **Mat.6:33** “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

E. Receive God’s _____ rather than oppose them. How does that apply to us today?

1. **Have you fully embraced Christ as the one can deliver you?**
 - a. **Christ delivers from the power _____.** **Matthew 1:21** “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”
 - b. **Christ delivers from _____ from God.** **John 1:12** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,”
 - c. **Christ delivers from _____ -** **Psalm 40:17** “Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.”

THINK, PRAY AND OBEY:

1. Pray that you do what is right.
2. Pray that you will help your neighbor in his need.
3. Pray you fully embrace Jesus as your savior.

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4. Gideon returns to discipline the leaders of those who refused to help. -- **Judges 8:13-17**

II. What can we learn from the men of Succoth and Penuel?

A. Consider the needs of others rather just your own.

1. They were selfish - what’s in it for me if I help you, if I contribute to what is needed. **Philippians 2:3-4** “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

B. Love your neighbor rather than despise him.

1. They had no love except for themselves.
 - a. **1John 3:17** “But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

C. Do what is right rather than always do what is safe.

1. They were Cowards, and coward always do what is safe.
 - a. We are not to be afraid to do what is right. **James 4:17** “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
 - b. Cowards will be denied entry into the Kingdom -- **Revelation 21:7–8**

D. Assist the causes of God rather than ridicule it.

1. They had an utter lack of interest in the causes of God. **Mat.6:33** “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

E. Receive God’s deliverers rather than oppose them. How does that apply to us today?

1. **Have you fully embraced Christ as the one can deliver you?**
 - a. **Christ delivers from the power of our sins. Matthew 1:21** “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”
 - b. **Christ delivers from eternal separation from God. John 1:12** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,”
 - c. **Christ delivers from Physical needs - Psalm 40:17** “Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.”

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1. Pray that you do what is right.
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