

Trusting God in times of Crisis

Starter

How difficult do you find it to trust people?

What are you having to trust God for at the moment?

Context

It is a time of unrest and the Israelites suffer the invasion of hostile forces again and again. Each time, God raises up someone to help them in their hour of need. At the time of our reading it is the Midianites who are terrorising the people. We find Gideon, threshing corn in secret for fear of the armies, being called to be a judge. After being told what he must do, he asks God to give him a sign. Not content with just one, he then asks for another. Clearly, Gideon finds it hard to trust both himself and God.

We pick up the story in [Judges 7](#) after Gideon has assembled a massive army of 32,000 men to attack the Midianites.

Questions

Amazingly, God tells Gideon there are too many men and he needs to cut their numbers! (v1-3)

1. How would you feel if you were Gideon at this point?
2. Why did God tell him to let some of the men go?
3. What might it have done to the rest of them if they had been made to stay?

Fear is contagious. You only have to look at panic buying, hoarding, fights and fake news that have been displayed in our shops and on the internet recently. We do not have a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. (2 Tim 1:7)

4. In what ways can you display that promise and dispel fear?

Next, God cuts them even further. (v4-8) Why were the ones that lapped like a dog different? One theory is that they were more alert and ready for battle than the ones who knelt down on the ground. Another is that the ones who knelt were used to doing so during their worship of idols. Either way, God decided they would not be an asset and sent them home.

5. Why is it important to be alert at this time?
6. What other things might we be tempted to put our trust in instead of God right now?

From 32,000 men, God chose just 300 to go into battle. It must have seemed like a suicide mission.

7. Have you ever experienced facing a situation that seemed much too big for you to tackle? How did God help you?

We already know that Gideon found it hard to trust, but God is so good to him. (v9-15). Knowing that Gideon was afraid, even if he hadn't admitted it aloud, he showed Gideon that the armies he faced were even more afraid.

8. What frightens you that you haven't spoken aloud? Take your worries to God and be comforted that he knows your secret fears.

Read 1 Peter 5:7. Use this verse if your fear threatens to overtake you. Know you can trust Him.