

Hello! This is Dorothy -

How are you today? It is such a joy to share this time in the Word of God with you. I want us to turn in the Old Testament to **Judges chapter 7**. As we turn, we see that **Judges chapter 7** has to do with a story of a man called Gideon. Now, Gideon had a little army around him, but these were not ordinary men. God had particularly hand-chosen those who could go up with Gideon, in His Name, and believe the Lord to work as only He could. Sometimes in the work of the Lord there is a great crowd. But the Lord says, "It is not that I don't love that great crowd who claim to know Me, but I am calling you to walk forward by faith and to do that job which I have called you to in My Name. I will give you some, but they have to be people who have been proven to walk in the Spirit by faith."

So Gideon had a little army with him of three hundred select men. God had them go across this situation in faith of reaching out and taking out the enemy, the Midianites. So they were but a handful, but God gave them the sign that He was in it by something they overheard, when they crept in and listened to what was happening in the enemy camp. God always encourages us by His Word. We never go into any situation but He does not give us His promise. It is on those promises

we can go forward by faith.

As they arrived at the camp, they realized they would be outnumbered if they went about things in the usual military fashion. So instead, God gave them a strategy. Each of these three hundred soldiers, who were broken up into three companies, were encamped right around where everybody of the enemy forces was sleeping. They were each given for one hand a trumpet, and in the other hand an empty pitcher and in the middle of the pitcher, a lamp. The leader, Gideon, said, "You do what I do at the time I do it." That is coming under the authority of leadership when we work together in the Name of the Lord. It was at the right moment when Gideon showed them this was time that each of these three companies of one hundred men, blew their trumpets, and then broke their pitchers. In other words, they broke these earthen vessels, because the lamp was inside. As they did so, they cried together, **The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.** Now what is all that about? It says - **21 And they stood every man in his place about the camp; and all the host ran, and cried and fled.** Have you ever noticed that when you go at something, you are the one who wants to cry and run and flee from the situation? But if you will stand still and see the mighty hand of God at work in your situation, if you will trust the Lord Jesus with all His might and power to bring to pass what is glorifying to His Name, you will be amazed what He will do even before your every eyes!

It was the earthen vessel that had to be broken. We know that an earthen vessel speaks of that hidden treasure that is in our heart. We read in **2 Corinthians, chapter 4** —

**3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost;**

**5 For we preach not ourselves, -not promoting ourselves - but Christ Jesus the Lord. . .**

**6 For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts . . .**

**7 But we have this treasure- of the Lord Jesus - in - our - earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.** Perhaps you are in a little bit of a mess today as a Christian, because you have tried every way to get out of this situation. You have tried to bring things to pass your way, but you have never understood that the stumbling block has been the earthen vessel. What is the good of Gideon's army standing there and blowing the trumpets, if all those dazzling lights weren't waking up the people below them - the totally entrapped Midianites, who then turned on themselves in confusion - if those earthen vessels had not been broken?

Would you say to the Lord today, *According to 2 Corinthians 4:7, I want my earthen vessel broken, that the treasure of the excellency of the power of our Lord will be seen through me.* Would you let Him work in your life to break you that Jesus be seen and felt and known for His glory alone?

*In His precious Name, we pray. Amen.*