

A Strong Start

- He accepts, if reluctantly, the challenge to lead
courageously
 - He destroys idol worship
 - He leads a battle that only God can win.
- Gideon refuses “official” Kingship
 - He passes the up-front challenge

The Drift (with an alarm bell)

- A “small” request
 - The giving of gold
 - An intentional flashback to Aaron and the golden calf.
 - This is foreshadowing that what is happening here is not good at all
 - Roughly 40-50 pounds of gold.
- The making of an Ephod

An Ephod was for Priests only

- Gideon was:
 - Not a Levite (from Manasseh)
 - Not a priest
 - Not consecrated
- Wrong Tribe
- Wrong Authority
- Wrong Location
- Independent Worship center



Signs of a Heart Shift

- He Lives like a King
 - Many Wives
 - Seventy Sons
 - A concubine
 - A son named **Abimelech** (“My father is king”)
 - He violates 2 of 3 prohibitions for Israel's eventual kings found in Deuteronomy¹⁷

The Final Tragedy

- Gideon's death is followed by immediate idol worship
 - The people's hope and trust were in Gideon, not God
 - They looked to the wrong savior
 - They trusted the wrong things
 - They looked for security and prosperity, not faithfulness

A Need for the Messiah is throughout the Old Testament

- The vast majority of leaders have major “hick-ups” in their lives.

How do We Finish Well?

- We walk in Dependence
 - Of the Spirit
 - Of each other
 - Of what Christ has already done for us
 - Eph 4
 - ...walk with humility...to maintain the unity of the Spirit...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together....builds itself up in love.

How do We Finish Well?

- We Stumble Forward
 - When we stumble, turn to humility and grace instead of pride and shame. Jesus paid it all.
 - Heb 12
 - The “Heroes” looked forward to Jesus and what He would do. We look back and forward, because of what Jesus did, and what he promised he will do.

How do We Finish Well?

- We Put our Trust in the One Who Finished for Us
 - Jesus lived the life we could not live and died the death we could not die
 - He gives us his righteousness
 - By His grace, he brings us to completion.
 - In all things Jesus gets the credit.