

The Dangers of Success

Nov. 6, 2022 | Judges 8:1-10:5 | Mercy in the Night | Pastor Mike Foster

How to avoid three pitfalls on the path of success

- · Glory in God (and protect against subtle pride) – 8:1-9

- · Get over yourself (and protect against selfish greed) – 8:10-21

- · Practice what you preach (and protect against foolish hypocrisy) – 8:22-35

Lessons from Chapter 9

- · The bad news: Your sin will reap a harvest of misery
- · The good news: God will act with sovereign mercy

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. In your own words, summarize the life of Gideon (from what we have learned the last 3 messages).
3. Read Psalm 124. Complete the statement with your own testimony of what God has done: If the Lord had not been on our side, _____.
4. Read Psalm 115:1. Why might it be so tempting to receive glory rather than to deflect glory?
5. What are some ways you have sought to prioritize praising and thanking God? How can you grow all the more in this kind of a direction that seeks to remember to praise the Lord?
6. Share about a time when you were motivated by a personal agenda rather than a divine purpose. In what ways did you and others suffer as a result of how you acted?
7. Read Judges 8:22-23 and consider again how Gideon begins to act like an entitled king right after these verses. Why do you think it is so possible for us to name Jesus as king and yet act as if we are still king?
8. Is there an area of your life that needs to be surrendered again to the rule of Jesus? What difference might it make for Jesus to be reigning in this area?
9. Who is someone you know who has been successful without falling into the pitfalls of success? Someone who has consistently honored God? What qualities do you see in this person that you admire?
10. Read Philippians 2:5-11. What can we learn in this passage from Jesus about the path of success?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read Joshua 1:8-9, Psalm 115, Psalm 124, Prov. 22:1, Jeremiah 17:5, Philippians 2:5-11

Read “Success is Dangerous” – <https://bit.ly/successisdangerous>

Read “The Hidden Danger of Success” – <https://bit.ly/hiddendangerofsuccess>

Read “A Battle for Integrity” – <https://bit.ly/battleforintegrity>

Consider the resources at www.theologyofwork.org

Read “God Hates Pride” – <https://bit.ly/Godhatespride>

Watch “Get over yourself” – https://bit.ly/getoveryourself_

Listen to “Jesus my Treasure” – <https://bit.ly/jesusmytreasure>