

300 Series: Part 1 - Principle Slide Notations

Throughout history stories have been handed down...Of courageous few, against all odds, doing the impossible! Few stand out more than the legend of the Spartan 300! But before the Spartans, God had His own 300!

Judges 7.2-6 The Lord said to Gideon, "With this many I can't give you the victory because the people will say, 'we won on our own!' Tell them to go home if they're fearful..." and 22,000 left leaving 10,000 troops for the impending battle! The Lord said, "there are still too many of them! Bring them to the river for a drink and we'll sort them out! Separate the ones who put their heads down to drink from the ones who drink from their hand." There were 300 of them who didn't kneel down and bow to drink.

Judges 7.7 "Let the fearful, the selfish, the unwary all go back... By the 300 will I save the nation..."

The legend began with a "few" left behind to do the impossible!

The backdrop...

Surrounded & outnumbered by the Midianite army 4:1...
Gideon facing battle with 32,000 men before the 1st "fearful" cut!
22,000 went home/odds went to 13:1
Then a 2nd cut; "the self indulgent!"
9700 disqualified...
300 left for the battle! 450:1

The battle that took place the very next day... Became the basis of many great battle legends... Like the Spartan 300!

The backdrop...

Greatly outnumbered by Xerxes and the 2m Persian army...
Leonidas led 300 Spartan and 700 Greek warriors to battle.
Betrayed, the Greeks deserted... Leaving Leonidas/Spartan's...
Who fought valiantly, at Thermopylae, for 2 days...

From the days of old...

We have handed down stories of the courageous few... Pitted against superior numbers... Doing the impossible! Thousands of books, scripts, tales told... Of loyal, unbreakable, sacrificial heroes-heroine's...

Everyone loves a hero... And most everyone romanticizes being one... But we don't become part of the legend by wishing, dreaming, hoping... We become part of the story by courage, commitment and dependence...

Gideon's 300...

Entered history by their dependence on God!
Maybe nervous as troops left!
But totally unnerving to finally hear God's battle plan!
A trumpet, a pot, a candle, a cry! "Blow//break//hold//yell!"

When you have God's mind on it, anything is possible! "Anything He can do... I can do too!"

The Spartan 300...

Entered history because of their complete dedication to their way of life!
A complete commitment to the life and training of a warrior!
They were completely "bound over" for the welfare of their country!
Not one of us will continue the legend of heroes... Until we stop fantasizing about doing great things... And give ourselves wholly to God and His ways...

Gideon's boys...

Didn't have alternate plans and a set of options...

They had a nation of people subjugated under tyranny...
They were surrounded for another round of treachery...
And it was God or nothing!

Leonidas' boys...

Went into battle with a knowing smile... "I was created for this"
They would be coming back with, or on, their shield...
They ignored fear, tiredness, pain and need...
Because it was victory or nothing!

Both cases... Were issues of "fealty!" An obsolete word combining faithfulness and loyalty!

1. The fidelity owed by a vassal, (bondman, or slave, subordinate or dependent) to his feudal lord, (guardian, protector, patron). b. The oath of such fidelity.
2. Faithfulness; allegiance.

Fealty...

Fidelis: faithful, fides: faith, loyalty, faithfulness or allegiance conceived as an obligation or duty...
Includes offering oneself for loyal, loving service, to death, in the case of replacement for another!

Deal Breakers!

1. "Slavery" to God! **Ro 1.1**
Obedience to Him/ways
Service to Him/kingdom
"Ownership" of heart
Direction of "possessions"
Household lifestyle/disciplines
2. His promise to "transform and perfect!" **Ph 1.6, Col 4.12, 1Th 4.3, Ro 8.29, 12.1,2**
Seeing/reading hearts/minds
Steady surgery schedule
Continuous instruction
3. Separation from, and death to, worldly enticement!
Friendship with the world makes us the enemies of God! **Jam 4.4**
The worldly mindset puts us in opposition to God! **R8.7**
Love not the world order **1J2.15**

Deal Makers!

1. You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the Lord. 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then you will chase your enemies and they shall fall by the sword before you...
2. Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. Lev 26.2-13
3. He who lives under the covering of the Most High lives under the defense of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." The one who lives like that will not be afraid of the terror by night...
4. ...of the arrow by day, the pestilence in darkness, the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Ps 91.1-7
5. Your inheritance as My servant is this, that whatsoever gathers against you will fall for your sake! No weapon formed against you will prosper and everyone who rises in judgment against you, you will judge!
Is 54.14-17

What's your part of the story? Where do you fit into the legend? If legends are made of men and women willing to lay down their lives... What stories are being generated about you... to be told to future generations?

There's a legend of a man who God loved because He willingly laid down His life for the world...
Though He died in the battle for men's souls, God raised Him up as the firstborn of a new race...

All who follow Him, find the greatest love the world has ever known...