



**Five Things Dreamers Must Face
When Dreaming About Their Future
(Managing Your Advantage)**

November 29, 2020

Big Question: What is Your Advantage?

Series Review:

1. **Isolation:** You learn a lot about yourself when you are alone (What have you learned about yourself when you were completely alone?)
2. **Fear:** You learn a lot about yourself when you are afraid (Judges 7:2-3, Have you ever been put in a situation where fear paralyzed those around you?)
3. **Distractions:** You learn a lot about yourself when distracted people leave (Judges 7:4-8; Have you ever worked with people that did not pay attention?)
4. **Change:** Are you able to see another way to be successful? (Judges 7:19-20)
5. **Advantage:** You learn a lot about yourself when you have an advantage (How will our leaders manage their advantage?)

Three Temptations That Came With Gideon’s Advantage

Note: Judges 8:22-27

- **The tables have turned, and Gideon is in charge and loses his way**

I. Power and Wealth

1. Gideon has power and wealth (Judges 8:22-27)

- 22 The Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us—you, your son and your grandson—because you have saved us from the hand of Midian.”
- 23 But Gideon told them, “**I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you.** The Lord will rule over you.” 24 And he said, “**I do have one request, that each of you give me an earring from your share** of the plunder.” (It was the custom of the Ishmaelites to wear gold earrings.)
- 25 They answered, “**We’ll be glad to give them.**” So they spread out a garment, and each of them threw a ring from his plunder onto it. 26 The weight of the gold rings he asked for came to seventeen hundred shekels, not counting the ornaments, the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian or the chains that were on their camels’ necks.

II. Religious Pride

2. Gideon crosses a sacred religious line

- 27 Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.



III. Lust and Romance

3. Gideon goes on a romance binge (Judges 8:28–35)

- **28 Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon’s lifetime, the land had peace forty years.**
- **29** Jerub-Baal son of Joash went back home to live. **30** He had seventy sons of his own, for **he had many wives.** **31 His concubine**, who lived in Shechem, also bore him a son, whom he named Abimelek. **32** Gideon son of Joash died at a good old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.
- **33** No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god **34** and did not remember the Lord their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side. **35** They also failed to show any loyalty to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) in spite of all the good things he had done for them.

Conclusion: Gideon revealed his real values he buried beneath his charismatic presentation

Question: What temptations have your advantage revealed about into your life?

Next Time: Repositioning Yourself For a New Season

Read Along Resource: TD Jakes “Repositioning Yourself

Question: What needs to be repositioned in your life?