



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

November 22, 2020

Big Thought: Distractions can cause you to be disqualified and dismissed from an opportunity.

Side Question: Are you distracted?

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?)

Review: Last Week:

The Main Text: Judges 7:2–3 (NIV): 2 The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ 3 Now announce to the army, ‘**Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.**’ ” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

Review: What Gideon Could Not See

- A. The **hubris** or pride in the hearts of the people (Israel will boast against me, v2)
- B. The number of people who were **afraid** (v3)
- C. The number of people who were **distracted** (v4-7)

I. The Distracted Described

Judges 7:4–8 (NIV): 4 But the Lord said to Gideon, “**There are still too many** men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

II. The Disqualified Described

5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “**Separate those who lap** the water with their tongues as a dog laps **from those who kneel down to drink.**” 6 **Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.**



III. The Dismissed Described

7 The Lord said to Gideon, “**With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you** and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” 8 So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Note: Paul’s fear of becoming disqualified motivated him (**1 Corinthians 9:24–27, NIV**)

- 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. **27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**

IV. Seven Things That Can Be a Distraction

1. News (You never cut it off)
2. Debt (You owe too many people)
3. Strife (You fight everyone who leads or follows you)
4. Lust (You want everything and everybody)
5. Fatigue (You are always tired on the way to some place great)
6. Fear (You can become scared of everything)
7. Anger (You are so mad about what happened)

Conclusion: Are you willing to change?

Final Question: Are you able to see another way to be successful? (**Judges 7:19-20**)

- 19 Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. **They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.** 20 The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, **they shouted, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!”** 21 While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.
- **22 When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords**

Next Time: How have you managed your advantage?

Read Ahead: Judges 8:22-35