A FLESHLY FINISH

Judges 8:1-28

Don't finish by the flesh what was begun by the Spirit.

Reaction 1: manipulative verbiage (vv. 1-9).

Reaction 2: merciless vengeance (vv. 10-21).

Reaction 3: manmade veneration (vv. 22-28).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is pride? How can great blessing from God easily lead us into pride?
2. What did Pastor Nick mean when he said our hearts are best revealed in our reactions, not our actions? Do you agree? Why, or why not?
3. Why was Ephraim mad at Gideon? How did their anger reveal pride in their hearts? How did Gideon's response equally reveal pride?
4. How does Gideon respond to the Israelites in Succoth and Penuel who refuse to help him and his men? What are some examples of ways we can do the same?
5. Why was Gideon chasing the Midianites across the Jordan? Did God command him to do this? Was he fighting God's battles or his own at this point? How do we know?
6. How did Gideon respond to Israel's desire to make him king? Did his practice match his words? How can we have good theology but contradict it with our lives?
7. Why is false worship always a sign of pride? How does true worship deliver us from pride?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Can I think of a recent reaction that has revealed pride in my heart? What should I do when God graciously brings such arrogance to light?
2. How is my own heart prone to self-worship when used by God? What about when others are used by God instead of me?
3. Dale Ralph Davis was quoted as saying, "It is ever our danger that after being used by God in some way, we mouth humility but practice pride." Why it is so easy to say the right thing theologically but then live the wrong way practically? What is the solution to this God-dishonoring contradiction?