

## How to Spoil a Huge Success 8:1-32

### ***How a soft answer can defuse a divisive moment. 8:1-3***

- Why is Ephraim upset with Gideon? See also in 12:1ff., III John 9.
- Flattering diplomacy works, Prov. 15:1. Contrast Jephthah in 12:1ff.

### ***How bitterness can spoil a huge God-given victory. 8:4-21***

- Why did these cities choose not to help? See also 5:15b-17, 21:8.
- Killing fellow Israelites is the beginning of further violent disunity. Gideon's bitterness is understandable, but what is he forgetting?
- Note Gideon has suddenly put blood vengeance concerns above nationalistic concerns. Was Gideon right to pressure Jether?

### ***How finishing poorly can undo much success. 8:22-32***

- Gideon rightly refuses an offer of kingship, but he asks for riches plus the king's royal ornaments; and he later adds many wives!
- Gideon's golden ephod is set up at his home, which becomes a snare (2:3, Dt. 7:16) to his household and Israel. Note irony!
- Gideon's king-like harem (see II Kgs. 10:1) includes a son by a concubine. Abimelech (lit. "my father is king") will bring even more death and disunity in Israel.

