

Thursday January 7, Day 4 Prayer Intention:

That we would be open and willing to be strategically positioned in this season of prayer. That we would know how to effectively conquer the enemy in pushing back the COVID virus.

Scripture:

¹Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. ²The 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.' ³Now 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.

⁴But 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."

⁵So 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." ⁶Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

⁷The 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." ⁸So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

^{15b}He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands." ¹⁶Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

¹⁷"Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. ¹⁸When I and all who are with me blow our

trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.' ”

¹⁹Gideon 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.

²⁰The 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!” ²¹While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. - Judges 7:1-8;15a-21

Things we are praying for today

(you can pray for all of these or choose a few to pray for):

- God’s protection from COVID
- Pray against the fear of COVID and trust God is more powerful than COVID 19
- For a greater measure of wisdom and revelation in moving forward with this virus for SCS and Crosswalk leadership
- Pray for our interim Pastor Gilbert and Church Council as they begin the pastoral search
- Pray for all marriages and families in Crosswalk and SCS; to preserve and protect
- Prayer for the leaders of our nation as they work to lead effectively during a challenging time

Reflection:

I find it interesting the process the Lord allowed Israel to go through, just to have a few hundred men stand in strategic high places. In fact, in the peak of battle, those chosen three hundred had not even drawn their sword yet. They were not picked because of their battle skills or might. They were selected because they were wise in their decisions and not full of fear. The battle was won because of three hundred men’s obedience to follow.

Like many of us, including myself, we find ourselves in a place of fear, even a place of making unwise decisions that could disqualify us from the battle ahead.

Only a small remnant of warriors were qualified to stand strategically in high places of warfare. How many who are reading this feel fearful and confused of what to do next. Like Gideon's army, we are thirsty but unprepared, apprehensive but moving forward still. What are the things in our life that keep us from the battle of this present time?

God wanted to use men who were unafraid and vigilant in their stance. It seems like a pretty simple thing that our God is requesting from us, yet even the majority of us find this to be a difficult thing.

That small remnant was not great in battle, but was willing to be placed in strategically high places of warfare. They stood in places where the enemy could not touch them, and in that, there was a great victory.

Prayer

Lord let us have a heart that is willing to be placed in high places. The Bible says *...with Christ we are seated with him in the heavenly realms* (Ephesians 2:6). Help us Holy Spirit to understand what it means to be seated in high places and to battle on our knees. We know it is a privilege to pray, and we know Father, You love to answer us. Give us ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen