



## Lesson Seven: Legacy & Gideon's Ephod

### Judges 8:22-31

Graham – March 1, 2022

**8** <sup>22</sup> Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian.” <sup>23</sup> Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you.” <sup>24</sup> And Gideon said to them, “Let me make a request of you: every one of you give me the earrings from his spoil.” (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) <sup>25</sup> And they answered, “We will willingly give them.” And they spread a cloak, and every man threw in it the earrings of his spoil. <sup>26</sup> And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian, and besides the collars that were around the necks of their camels. <sup>27</sup> And Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family. <sup>28</sup> So Midian was subdued before the people of Israel, and they raised their heads no more. And the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon.

<sup>29</sup> Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house. <sup>30</sup> Now Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives. <sup>31</sup> And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech.

**Questions to reflect on and take home with you:**

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1. What do you make of Gideon's confession? Do you think it was genuine?
2. What concrete evidence do we see in the surrounding passage that contradicts and undermines Gideon's rightly articulated theology/orthodoxy? Can we fool ourselves in similar ways?
3. What might have led to the erosion of Gideon's faith? Why was this so alluring?
4. How did Gideon's syncretistic apostasy (using religious ideas, edifices, and symbols) differ from his initial calling? How did this undermine his true legacy?
5. What are ways we too might display a syncretistic gospel message? What are ways our family, Christian culture/community, and churches unintentionally (or intentionally) may be in danger of something similar?
6. Why is the Biblical imagery of a threshing floor a beginning and ending place in terms of our worship, life posture, and calling? How does this fit with our understanding of grace in the Christian life?