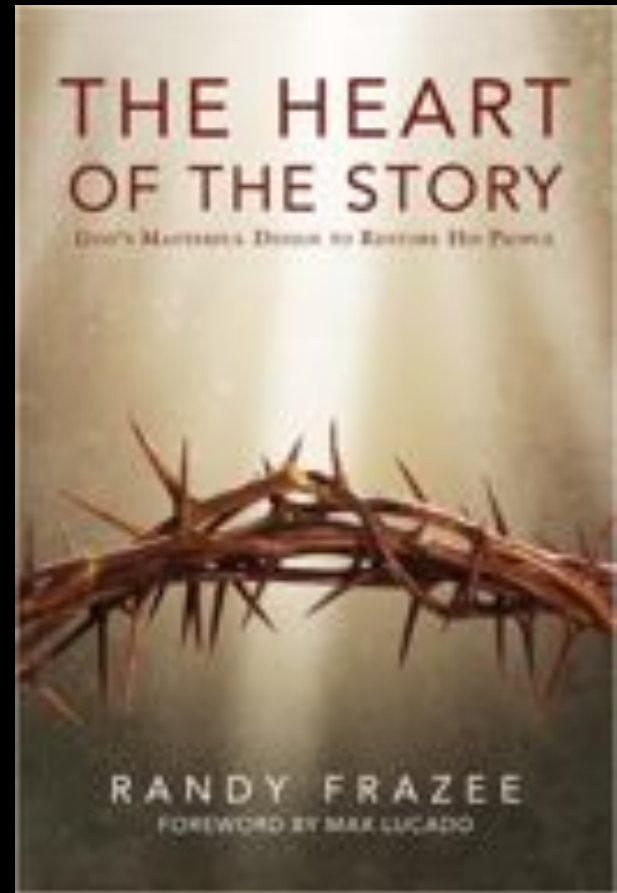


The Heart of the Story

Chapter 8: Jars of Clay

November 16, 2011



The Ultimate Underdog

- *“If you’ve ever felt outnumbered, unqualified, or disadvantaged, you will be encouraged by Gideon’s story.”* (p. 86)
- The problem facing Israel-
 - *“...they are addicted to worshiping other gods.”* (p. 86)

Judges



Judges

- *“When a judge is in charge, the Israelites repent, which in the Hebrew language literally means they turn back from the direction they are heading and return to God.” (p. 86)*



Gideon





Thanks to Dan Cohen Use Judges 6:36-40

02-02-2011

OK GOD, GIDEON HERE ... LETS TRY THIS AGAIN ... TODAY, IF THE FLEECE IS DRY, THE ROCK IS SOAKED AND THE GROUND IS MERELY DAMP, THEN THAT MEANS THAT THE MEDIUMS AND I CANNOT BE FRIENDS

Gideon

- *“You don’t have to be a military strategist to know that regardless of how strong and skilled the three hundred Israelite soldiers were, they were no match against two hundred thousand Midianites. At least from a Lower Story point of view.” (p. 88)*

True Humility

- *“In the Upper Story, the only way we can be in a relationship with God is to acknowledge that he is God, and we are not. And like the Israelites, we still need to be humbled and reminded of this reality.”* (p. 88)
- 1 Peter 5:1-6
- Luke 18:9-14

What happened?

- *“You would think that after such a miraculous victory, the Israelites never would have wanted to do anything less than serve God faithfully forever. But in their Lower Story lives, they always ended up putting their own selfish interests ahead of God’s wonderful provision for them.” (p. 89)*

Sound familiar???

- *“For some reason, in times of prosperity and abundance, we often grow distant or ignore God completely, feeling self-sufficient in our temporary happiness.” (p. 89)*
- *“...we forget that the same God who saves us from our distress wants to walk with us and enjoy a relationship with us all the time, not just when our backs are against the wall.” (p. 90)*

2 Corinthians 4:1-12

- A brown paper bag is a modern day jar of clay.
- Cheap, replaceable, and not all that special.



Lower Story nearsightedness

