

SCCC - A SOFT ANSWER TURNS AWAY WRATH

S - Scriptures

“Now the men of Ephraim said to him, “Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?” And they reprimanded him sharply.”

C – Consideration

Ephraim was the younger brother of Manasseh, sons of Joseph, but adopted by their grandfather Jacob. Ephraim had been divinely selected and anointed by Jacob as the one who would have preeminence over his older brother, which happened. But, God, had called Gideon, from Manasseh to deliver Israel from the Midianites. When the enemies were scattering, Gideon sent a message, “throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, “Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.” Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places. And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb.” But the pride of Ephraim was very high, as they were questioning, accusing, and angry criticizing Gideon, perhaps of bad leadership. Being an anointed leader of the Lord, he answered, “What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?” Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.”

C – Commitment

It is important to remember, that every tribe and persons involved in this battle were chosen by God, not by Gideon. Every movement on the battlefield was organized by the Lord, and Gideon knew that all the time. When the nation was delivered, and all Israel came to him and said, “Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.” Gideon replied to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you.” It is very easy to fall into Ephraim’s error if we don’t watch our hearts. The Scriptures warn us to Walk in the Spirit, and we will not fulfill the lust of our flesh. Acting at the level of the flesh, suggests that we are arrogant, jealous, and seeking self-glorification, which in the end produces divisions, strives and sinful reactions like that of the Ephraimites. The great lesson in this episode for me was the answer Gideon gave to Ephraim. He didn’t fight for his reputation, he didn’t tell them about God’s ideas for the battle, but affirmed their accomplishment. He was walking in the Spirit, put into practice, the counsel of the Scriptures, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

C – Call

Father, help me to see my brothers and their accomplishments like Gideon did. Forgive me for the times when my evil behaviours such as pride, jealousy, and carnality caused me to act foolishly. Thanks for the many Gideons You have placed in my journey who were patient with me and by their humility, they forgave me of my sinful actions. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.