

MARCH 22

“WE NEED TO FINISH WELL.”

READ

Judges 8:22-27, Proverbs 4:23-27

Gideon, after a great victory, is invited to become the king of Israel. He said, “I won’t be your king — the Lord will be your king.” He did make one request, and asked to have the gold earrings they won as spoils of war. There were so many, Gideon fashioned an ephod out of them for himself. An ephod was what the high priest wore. It signified that this anointed man carried the burden of Israel over his heart. It represented God’s passion for Israel. But in his attempt to do a good thing, Gideon trapped himself and his family in sin by doing something for God without consulting God. It became idolatry and became their ruin. How sad that this is the last thing we read of Gideon in the book of Judges before his death. It’s important how you finish. You can’t think that you’re done because you’re older and won a bunch of battles, or because you’ve been faithful. You’ve got to fight harder, believe more, and trust God more than you ever have. You may have had a strong start, and a good run with the finish line just ahead. When you cross that line, you want to hear Jesus say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

PRAY

Lord, I want to be faithful and to finish well. May I not turn to the left or right, but follow You to the finish line.

From June 28, 2009