

DISADVANTAGES OF TRYING TO MAKE IT ON OUR OWN

SOME POSSIBLE PERSPECTIVES:

- Not the way God created us – created relational beings
- ‘The self-made man worships his creator’!!
- No points of reference – don’t have compass bearings – go astray
- Become discouraged very easily
- Lose one’s perception and perspective
- No accountability
- Achieve less
- Loss of objectivity
- No one to share joys with – attainments, successes, dreams
- No one to share sorrow or pain
- No synergy – interaction, empowerment
- No one to rescue us when we fall or go astray (rescue from ourselves)
- No one to help to keep us honest in our P R material!!

FOR REFLECTION:

Approximately one quarter of the recorded leaders in the Bible didn’t finish well. One of these was **Gideon**. Read his story in Judges 6-8. Gideon is best remembered for how, under God, he was incredibly successful in defeating an enemy of 135,000 with just 300 of his original 32,000 soldiers! However this great leader lost the plot after this remarkable victory. In chapter 8:1-21 we discover he became vindictive and vengeful towards those who had refused to feed his troops. In Chapter 8:22-27, Gideon does the unbelievable – he made idols which led his people away from God, whilst in verses 33-35 we see that by the end of his life, Gideon left virtually no lasting impact for good

- Do any of the above points listed under ‘Some Possible Perspectives’ suggest why he failed, or were there other reasons?
- What can we learn from Gideon’s disappointing finish?

At the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus said to his disciples “You are those who stood by me in my trials” (Luke 22:28)

- What are some instances when Jesus showed he was open to receive support from his disciples? What is the challenge for us here?