

The Book Of
JUDGES
Stories of {un} Faithfulness

²² The Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us—you, your son and your grandson—because you have saved us from the hand of Midian.”

²³ But Gideon told them, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The LORD will rule over you.” ²⁴ And he said, “I do have one request, that each

Judges 8:22-24

of you give me an earring from your share of the plunder.” (It was the custom of the Ishmaelites to wear gold earrings.)

²⁵ They answered, “We’ll be glad to give them.” So they spread out a garment, and each of them threw a ring from his plunder onto it. ²⁶ The weight of the gold rings he asked for came to seventeen

Judges 8:24-26

hundred shekels, not counting the ornaments, the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian or the chains that were on their camels' necks.²⁷ Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a

Judges 8:26-27

snare to Gideon and his family.

²⁸ Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace forty years.

²⁹ Jerub-Baal son of Joash went back home to live. ³⁰ He had seventy sons of his own, for he had many wives. ³¹ His

Judges 8:27-31

concubine, who lived in Shechem, also bore him a son, whom he named Abimelek. ³² Gideon son of Joash died at a good old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

³³ No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves

Judges 8:31-33

to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god ³⁴ and did not remember the LORD their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side. ³⁵ They also failed to show any loyalty to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) in spite of all the good things he had done for them.

Judges 8:33-35

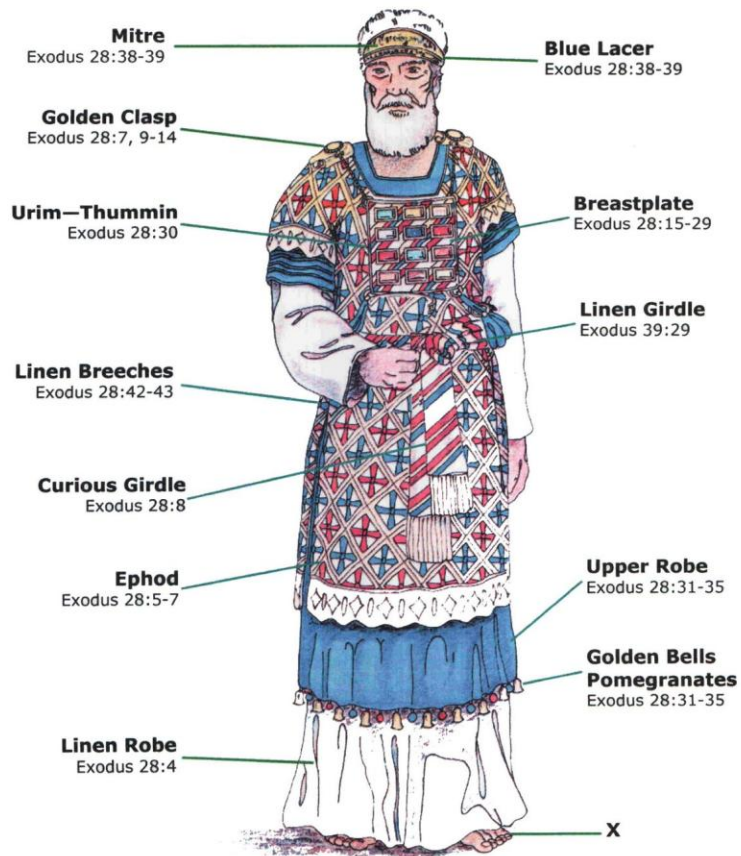


F

FINISH

START





Vestments

Exodus 28:2-4



Tear Down
Your
IDOLS.

Gideon Jerub-Baal
“feller of trees” “let Baal contend”

Abimelek
“my father, the king”

Regardless of fatigue - Finish Well.

In spite of opposition - Finish Well.

Though tempted to quit - Finish Well.

Complete what you started - Finish Well.

You are on the home stretch – Finish Well.

Do what you said you would do - Finish Well.

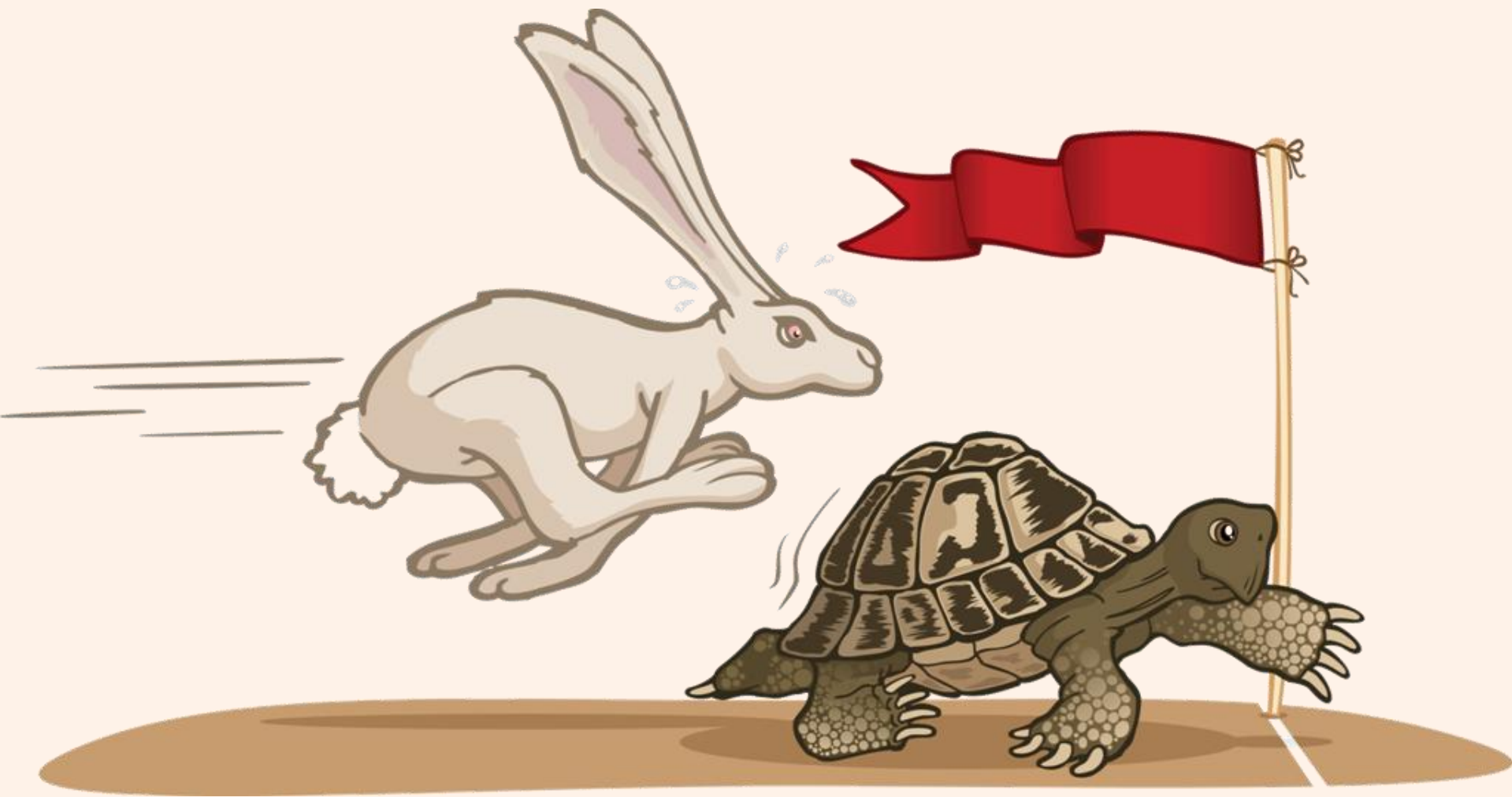
Be a much needed example for others to see - Finish Well.

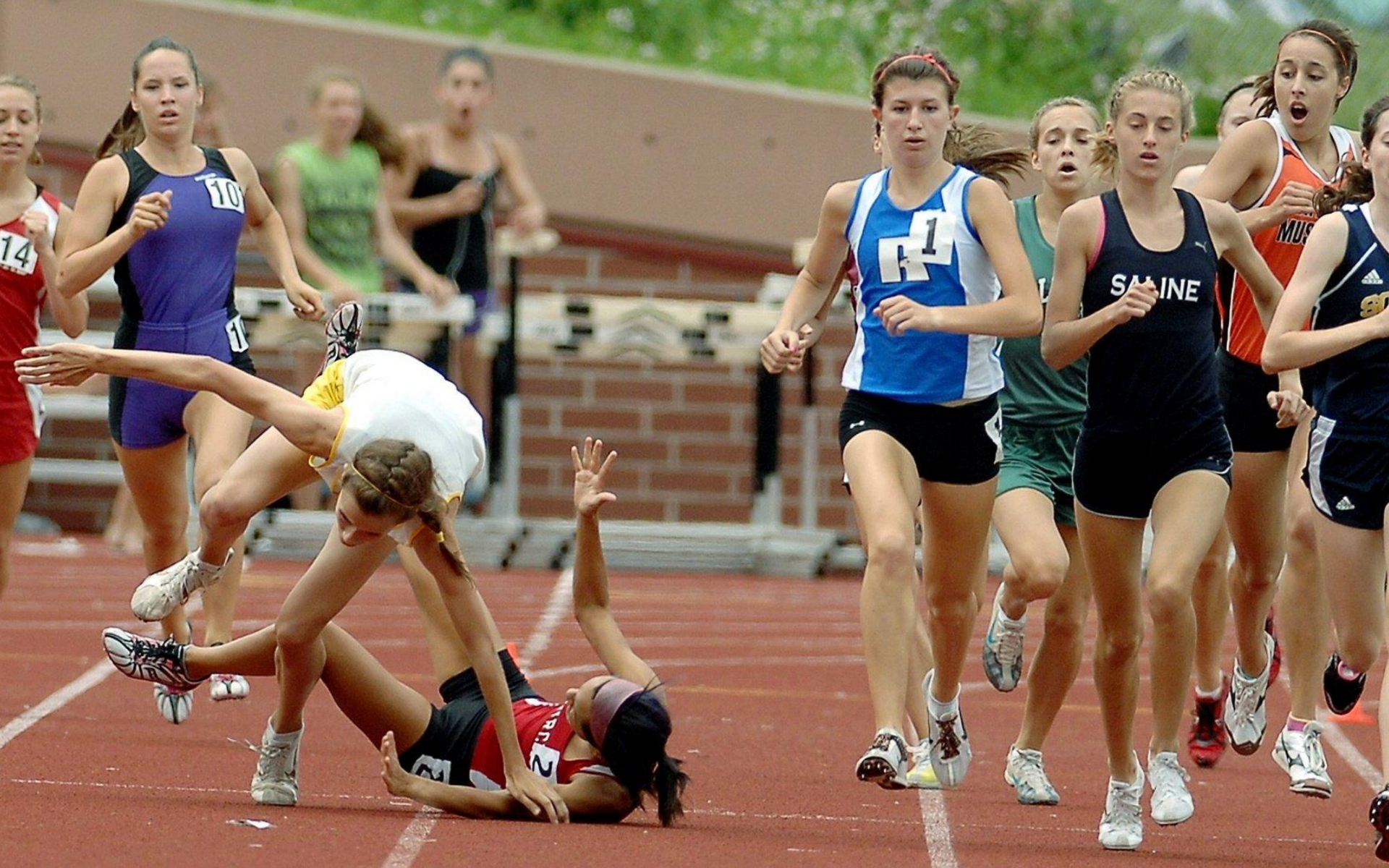
Remind yourself of all the reasons why you began – Finish Well.

Another level of fulfillment and your next assignment awaits you – Finish Well.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

I Corinthians 9:24







I have fought the good fight, I
have finished the race, I have kept
the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

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