

“Gideon – Thou Might Man of Valor” *Judges 6-7*

Open: Story

- Israel has been in the vicious cycle of: Despair, Deliverance, Disobedience, and Destruction.
 - Judges 5:31 = Deliverance
 - Judges 6:1 = Disobedience
 - Judges 6:2-5 = Destruction
 - Judges 6:6-10 = Despair
- **Judges 6** - God’s choice for a deliverer
 - An angel delivers the message to Gideon. **vs. 11-16**
 - Gideon is shaken in his faith, but his calling is proved. **vs. 17-24**
 - Gideon is told by God to tear down his father’s altar to Baal and build an altar for God in its place; and to make a sacrifice to God. **vs. 25-27**
 - God protects Gideon from the outrage of the city. **vs. 28-32**
 - Gideon proves God again. **vs. 36-40**
- **Judges 7** – God delivers the Midianites into Gideon’s hand.
 - Gideon calls for an army to be gathered. **Judges 6:33-35**
 - God tells Gideon that he has too many men and those who are fearful can leave. **vs. 1-3**
 - 22,000 men leave. Leaving Gideon with 10,000 men.
 - God again tells Gideon that he has too many men and to take the men to get a drink of water. **vs. 4-6**
 - 9,700 men are told to go home, and 300 men are chosen to stay. Those who were sent home drank water like a dog.
 - God reassures Gideon that by these 300 men **HE** would deliver Israel. **vs. 7-8**
 - Gideon is given encouragement and the battle plan. Then the battle plans are relayed to Gideon’s men. **vs. 9-18**
 - The dream reassured Gideon of God’s promise for victory. (vs. 13-15)
 - The battle plan as laid out by God (vs. 16-18). Gideon was to divide his men into three companies having only a trumpet, an empty pitcher, and a lamp. When commanded, they were to sound the trumpet, break the pitcher, and shout “*The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.*”
 - God delivers the Midianites into the hand of Gideon. **vs. 19-25**
 - By standard military operating procedures, 1 trumpet was used for every regiment (1500 – 3000 men)
 - The lantern was held by an officer and used to lead a brigade of men (10k – 25k men)
 - The pitchers breaking would sound like armor coming to attention.
 - The men divided in to 3 companies up on the ridge would give the appearance to the enemy of being surrounded by an overwhelming force.

Tran:

- You don't have to be anything special in man’s eyes for God to use you.
- God wants you to trust in Him and not what the world would call important.
- God wants you to see His power not feel secure in your own strength.

I. God will bless the obedient individuals when the multitude is disobedient.

- A. The majority of Israel was sinning, but Gideon remained obedient. **Judges 6:1-6**
 - i. God was able to come to Gideon and use him to deliver the Israelites because Gideon continued to live a life that was blessable by God when all those around him were not.
 - ii. Gideon did not allow the popularity of wrong, nor the difficulty of God's judgment on his nation to deter him from remaining faithful in his obedience to God.
- B. His family was involved in the worship of Baal, but Gideon remained faithful to God. **Judges 6:24-32**
 - i. Gideon obeyed God in that he did not get involved in the immorality of Baal worship.
 - ii. Gideon obeyed God in that he took a difficult stand publicly against those in his family and community that worshiped Baal.

II. God wants to work through the lives of the obedient.

- Do not discredit God's desire nor his ability to use you.
- A. God used an unnamed prophet to preach a sermon of revival. **Judges 6:7-10**
 - i. This prophet's significance is noted by the fact that God does not even give us his name.
 - ii. The effectiveness of this prophet's message is not fully known, but we do find deliverance following shortly after his message.
 - B. God used an unlikely candidate to deliver His people. **Judges 6:11-16**
 - i. Gideon would have not been the country's first choice as a general, but he was God's.
 - ii. Man saw an unpopular candidate, while God saw bravery and diligence in providing for his family.
 - C. God used a seemingly insignificant number of men to defeat the Midianites. **Judges 7:1-7**
 - i. Only 300 men did not turn away in fear.
 - ii. Only 300 men passed the test of being observant.

III. God will work through the lives of those who have the faith to obey.

- A. The prophet did not question his ability or influence, he simply preached the message that God gave him.
 - **Judges 6:8**
- B. Gideon did not allow his lack of confidence or understanding keep him from obeying in faith.
 - **Judges 6:15-17; 36-40**
- C. The 300 men following Gideon did not allow the ridiculousness of God's plan to prevent them from obeying by faith. **Judges 7:19-20**

Close:

- Be the individual God can bless during the times of judgement because you remain obedient.
- Be the individual who God can work through because you remain faithful to the tasks He has already given you.
- Be the individual God works through because you are willing to step out by faith and do what He has told you that you can do.

II Chron. 7:14

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."