

**GIDEON,
A MIGHTY
MAN OF
VALOR?**

JUDGES 6: 11-16

Many times we don't understand why the Lord does as He does.

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Gideon is such a case.

The way the Lord used him in delivering Israel doesn't make a lot sense to us.

The story of Gideon is told in Judges chapters 6, 7, and 8.

Midian had oppressed Israel for seven years.

Judges 6: 1-6

Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord.

God chose Gideon to deliver the Israelites.

Gideon asked, why me Lord?

Judges 6:15

So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

Gideon's father and the rest of the town worshipped Baal.

Gideon's first task was to break down the altar of Baal and build an altar to the Lord and offer a bull.

When the men of the city woke up the next morning, they were angry with Gideon for tearing down Baal's altar.

They wanted to kill him.

But Joash the father of Gideon intervened for him.

Judges 6:30-31

Then the men of the city said to Joash, Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has tore down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it." But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down."

God tells Gideon to recruit an army.

Gideon puts God to a test.

Judges 6:36-40

So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said. And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

There were 32,000 soldiers recruited.

God said that was too many.

He said, “Israel would claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”

Judges 7:2

Those who were fearful and afraid went home,
22,000 of them, Judges 7:3.

But God said that there was still too many.

They did the water test.

Judges 7:5-7

So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, “Everyone who laps from the water with their tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink. And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men; but all the rest got down on their knees to drink water. Then The Lord said to Gideon, “By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.

Gideon gets encouragement from a person's dream and its interpretation.

Judges 7:13-15

And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barely bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed." Then his companion answered and said, "This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp. And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand."

Gideon divides the men up into 3 groups of 100.

The odds were 400 to 1.

Each man had:

A trumpet

An empty pitcher containing a torch.

When all 300 trumpets sounded, the Midianites panicked, and started killing each other,
Judges 7:22.

The people of Succoth and Penuel refused to feed them for fear the kings of Midian would capture Gideon and his men.

Gideon said they would receive a severe punishment and they did, Judges 8:6-17.

The people wanted to make Gideon their King.

Gideon refuses and points them toward God.

Judges 8:23

But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.

When Gideon dies the people go back to worshipping the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god.

Lessons From Gideon.

With God's help the weak become mighty.

I Corinthians 1 :25, 27

Because the foolish of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.

I Corinthians 12:10

For when I am weak, then I am strong

Family background is not a hindrance.

Even though Joash worshipped Baal, Gideon was still a faithful servant of God.

Ezekiel 18:20

The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

The fearful have no place in army of God.

The fearful shall have their lot in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, Revelation 21:8.

Being fearful shows a lack of faith.

I Corinthians 16:13

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

II Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Only the alert are good soldiers.

Alert for what?

Mark 14:38

Watch and pray, lest you fall into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be watchful; your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Matthew 25:13

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

The number is not significant.

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us.

Psalms 3:6-7

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God!

Hebrews 13:5-6

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

When it seems impossible, God can do it.

Matthew 19:26

With men this impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Psalms 37:3, 5

Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

Commit your way to the Lord. Trust also in Him, and He will act.

Mark 9:23

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

We cannot straddle the fence.

The people of Succoth and Penuel wanted to see who would win before they would pick a side.

Matthew 12:30

He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me, scatters abroad.

I Kings 18:21

“How long will you go limping between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal follow him.”

Revelation 3:15-16

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth

Like Gideon, no Christian will take to himself undue honor or power.

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and haughty spirit before a fall.

I Peter 5:6

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

The glory always goes to God!

We need to be careful not to fall back into sin.

I Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take lest he fall.

II Peter 2:20-22

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandments delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit." and "a sow is washed only to wallow in the mire."

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

The battle belongs to the Lord. It is through Him we are victors.

Romans 8:37

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

I Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A victory over what?

Sin

Satan

This World

Ourselves

Death

The result of this victory:

Eternal Life. A home with God for eternity.

THE LORD
CAN AND WILL
USE US.
WE MUST
LEARN TO
TRUST IN HIM
AND
OBEY HIM.

**ARE TRUSTING
IN THE
LORD AND
OBEYING HIM
TODAY?**

Given by David Hamlin 4-22-07 am

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