

Gideon: A Champion Of Obedience

(Judges 6-7)

- Introduction:
1. Most of us are ordinary people.
 - a. How many of you were born wealthy, held a state or national office, has a doctorate degree.
 2. The point that we can learn from lessons like this one about Gideon is that God can take ordinary people and use them mightily in his kingdom.
 3. Let's take a look back to the life of Gideon and see what lessons we can learn.

I. An Introduction To Gideon

- A. While Joshua was alive, the people followed God (Joshua 24:31; Judges 2:6-10).
- B. But people soon digressed and lived by a different rule (Judges 17:6).
- C. The book of Judges contains seven cycles of, (sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance).
- D. Outline of Judges:
 1. The Reason for the Judges (1-3).
 2. The Rule of the Judges (3-16).
 3. The Ruin of the Judges (17-21)
- E. There were 15 judges in Israel.
- F. This is a period of oppression at the hands of the Midianites for seven years.
- G. Even Gideon's father was an idolater (6:25).
- H. Gideon is a common man (6:11), and was rather reluctant to accept God's challenge (6:15).

II. Gideon's Call

- A. (Judges 6:11-24).
- B. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon.
 1. Angels refused worship (Revelation 19:10; Revelation 22:8-9).
 2. (Genesis 16:7-10) Appears to Sarah.
 3. (Genesis 18) Appears to Abraham.
 4. (Genesis 22:9-12, 15-16) Appears to Abraham - Isaac.
 5. (Genesis 31:11-13; 32:22) Appears to Jacob.
 6. (Exodus 3-4) Appears to Moses and burning bush.
 7. (Judges 6:11-16) Appears to Gideon and accepts worship.
- C. Gideon questions how God could be with them when they were suffering so.
- D. Many people have that incorrect assumption.

III. Gideon's Is Tested

- A. (Judges 6:25-32).
- B. He stood up to the enemies of God, including his own family and tore down the altar of Baal.

- C. (Matthew 10:36).
- D. Gideon's father protects Gideon with some rather compelling reasoning.

IV. Gideon Receives Assurance From God.

- A. (Judges 6:33-40).
- B. The Midianites and the Amalekites gather together to attack Israel...an army totaling 135,000 men (7:12; 8:10).
- C. The test of the fleece of wool (6:36-40).
- D. 32,000 men assemble to go to war (7:3).
- E. God reduces the number of the army to 300 men (7:1-8).

V. Gideon Receives Additional Assurance

- A. (Judges 7:9-15).
- B. God tells him to approach the enemy's camp and hear what they were saying.
- C. He heard them express a dream that foretold of Gideon defeating them.

VI. God's Strategy For Gideon

- A. (Judges 7:16-18).
- B. Told to take a trumpet, pitcher, and a torch.
 - 1. Trumpet - trumpet the message of Christ.
 - 2. Pitcher - serve our fellow man.
 - 3. Torch - light of example showing men the way.

VII. God's Plan Executed

- A. (Judges 7:19-22).
- B. The enemy army was in confusion and began to slay each other.
- C. The Lord won for them an amazing victory that day.

VIII. Gideon's Army Grows

- A. (Judges 7:23-25).
- B. This teaches us a lesson about the nature of man...once one sees it can be done, others will join in.

IX. Practical Lessons

- A. We must guard against forgetting God and failing to teach our children.
- B. God can use ordinary people to do great things.
- C. A small number with God can do much.
- D. One can grow from doubt to great faith.
- E. Leaders should be courageous and examples for others to follow.
- F. Many people won't get involved unless the way is proven by someone more courageous.