

GIDEON

"A Fearful Man With a Mighty Mission"



Story: Judges Chapters 6-8; Gideon is referred to in the Hebrews chapter 11 Faith-Hall-of-Fame (verse 32).

Summary and Background

Gideon also named **Jerub-baal**, was a military leader, judge and prophet whose calling and victory over the Midianites are recounted in chapters 6 to 8 of the Book of Judges. Gideon was the son of Joash, from the Abiezrite clan in the tribe of Manasseh and lived in Ephra (Ophrah). As a leader of the Israelites, he freed the Israelites from Midianite domination by a decisive victory over their army. The victory occurred despite a vast numerical disadvantage, Gideon leading a troop of only 300 'valiant' men that defeated an army of 135,000! Gideon is famous for his putting out a "fleece" to confirm God's will.

Life Lessons for Us Today

1. God can work with a little bit of faith. And He often uses weak, fearful, ill-equipped people to accomplish His purposes.

Overall, we can learn that God can work through anyone, even timid believers of little faith.

A leader doesn't always mean the boldest and most extroverted. God often works through believers who come from the least of the least, like Gideon. When we're hiding from what scares us most, God compels us to tackle it head on. Refer to Apostle Paul's example in 2 Corinthians 12 where God tells him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And Paul concludes "For when I am weak, then I am strong".

2. God wants us to trust and rely on Him. God likes to do the “impossible”!

God plays along with Gideon’s fleece tests, but when it comes to the actual battle He refuses to let Gideon have a cushion of a bulky army. Reducing him to the bare essentials of 300, they know they have to rely on God for a victory against an army of 135,000!

The same happens in our lives. We can often have various cushions that offer comfort. Maybe we have jobs that provide enough income for a cozy retirement or we have a nice 401k balance, or other members of the church who step up into leadership roles we’d rather not fill ourselves. We can only hide out for so long before God pulls us out of our comfort zones to do His amazing work. No matter what the case, God will reduce our “numbers” down to 300. When He does so, we have to rely on Him to do what we thought was impossible. Remember: “Nothing is impossible with God!” (Luke 1:37).

3. We need to stand strong and take strength in the Lord when times are tough! Refer to 2 Cor 12:9; Joshua 1:9; Psalms 27:1; Is 41:10; Eph 6:10; 2 Tim 1:7.

4. We don’t need “fleeces” to determine God’s desired will. Duet 6:16 says to not test the Lord. We have a number of resources to draw on to determine God’s will including: Holy Spirit (John 14:26), Word of God (Psalms 119:105), Prayer (James 1:5), Counsel of Godly friends (Proverbs 13:20), and the ordering of our circumstances (Proverbs 16:9).

Other Lessons?

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