

Judges, Sermon #18

Judges 6

This chapter contains one of the most famous stories of the Bible: Gideon and the fleeces

I've entitled our message tonight "Introduction to Gideon"

Judges 6:1-

Let us stand for the reading of God's Word

Judges 6:1

Let us pray

You may be seated

Introduction to Gideon

Every year Israel's neighbors swooped down and raided their land.

This went on year after year, and there was nothing Israel could do about it.

For seven years, God allowed the Midianites and their allies to ravage "the land of milk and honey"

About the time of the eighth Midianite invasion, God called a farmer named Gideon to become the (deliverer) judge of His people.

Gideon started his career as somewhat of a **coward** (Jud. 6), then became a **conqueror** (7:1-8:21), and ended his career as a **compromiser** (8:22-35).

More space is devoted to Gideon in the Book of Judges (100 verses) than to any other judge

Vs. 1

Merry-go-round – Israel's fourth trip

Sin brings unnecessary suffering

When we sin, we create a mess of problems for ourselves

Life already has enough problems

Do we have a mess right now because of our disobedience to the Lord?

Pickles, jams . . .

Vs. 2

Midianites – Abraham married Keturah after Sarah died.

She had six sons – one son was Midian

Moses married Zipporah – Midians

Because the oppression was so severe, the Israelites fled to dens and caves – caverns
that hold large numbers of people

Reason – strongholds – defend themselves in the mountains

This is going to happen again during the Tribulation

Israel is going to flee to the hills

Abomination of desolation – Matthew 24:15

We are not far away – Euro – one-world currency

Vs. 3-5 – invasion of the enemies

Used camels, too – carry heavy loads – 100 miles a day

Camels can defeat even a horse (cavalry)

Camels have a mean streak in them

Vs. 4

Vs. 6-7 – impoverished – made poor, exhausted – to reduce and drain a country –
oppression

Living at the end of a rope

Like a bucket in a well – moving, shaking, and dependent on the rope holder

Like children in a shopping cart

Israel is in bad shape

When we turn away from the Lord and live in sin, we start living at the end of a rope

Our life sways back and forth, up and down

We lose control, we become desperate

And the answer for us – the first step – is to cry out to God

Vs. 6-7

If we would listen and obey in the first place, we would not find ourselves on rock bottom

We need to turn to the Lord sooner

Turning to God should never be our last resort

How soon should we repent of our sins? Right now

Call on Him first in every situation.

You know, when we get away from God, the last thing we want to do is pray, read the Bible, or go to church

Prayer does not mix well with disobedience

Going to church does not mix well with disobedience

Let me say this: Christians, the first thing we must do in truly helping others – is to point them to the greatest Helper

Notice something: They are crying out to God, but there is something missing – repentance

There is a big difference in a cry for help and a cry for repentance

Now before God rescued them, God sent them a prophet with a message

Vs. 8-10b

God kept His promises

And then God identified the root of their problems: disobedience – vs. 10c

Before we can be delivered from the evil of our circumstances, we must first be convicted about the evil of our conduct

Our government tries to deliver people using a welfare system – without dealing with the root causes – alcohol, immorality, laziness, and other addictions and sins

Confront it – acknowledge it

Confess it

Convert it – repent and change direction

Clear our conscience

Disobedience – alliterate these ten verses with the letter “I”

Imprisoned – dens and caves – vs. 2

The Invasion – vs. 3 & 5

The Increase was destroyed – vs. 4

The Impoverished people – vs. 6

The Invocation to God – vs. 6-7

The Incrimination of God’s people – vs. 8-10

Let us stand for closing invitation.