

## Judges, Sermon #19

Judges 6

Israel was in trouble again.

God's response to their cry

1. a prophet came
2. an angel of the LORD

a Theophany – vs. 14 – Jesus Christ comes to Gideon

Gideon was living by sight, not by faith, and had he remained that way, he would never have been named among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11.

“And this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4)

Judges 6

Last week, we were introduced to Gideon's world

Tonight, we are introduced to Gideon himself

Let us pray

Judges 6

Vs. 11 – Ophrah – a few miles north of Jericho

This section opens with a man named Gideon threshing wheat by the winepress to hide it from the Midianites.

**Threshing** wheat – was usually threshed on a circular spot of hard ground anywhere from fifty to one hundred feet diameter.

The grain was trampled by oxen that would pull a threshing sled called a **noreg**. It was made of three stone rollers ridged with iron which would crush and cut the grain. Enemies were tortured with these sleds.

Light grain was also beaten with a stick.

This is probably what Gideon was doing because no animals are mentioned.

The threshing was usually done in a high elevated place in an open area where there was a good breeze and lots of wind.

The reason for the need for wind is the farmer would take a shovel called a fan and throw the grain up into the wind separating the chaff and wheat.

This was called winnowing.

The grain was heavier than the chaff and would fall immediately to the ground while the chaff was blown into a pile at the side.

The chaff was then burned and the wheat was sifted for dirt, chaff, bugs, and other impurities.

*Matthew 3:11-12, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

*Psalm 1:4, "The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away."*

*Luke 22:31, "And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.'"*

Judges 6 – our first sight of Gideon – farmer – in the winepress

**Vs. 12**

Who me?

Shocking statement

Gideon is far from that statement – hiding and working the wheat

Gideon will not demonstrate anything in this whole chapter that would make anyone call

Gideon a man of valor

A man of valor is someone who will march into the teeth of the enemy

Gideon is scared stiff – eyes wide, knees knockin', and his heart is hoppin'

But God saw something in Gideon!

*I Samuel 16:7, "But the LORD said unto Samuel, 'Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.'"*

While people may see our flaws and failings, God sees our potential and possibilities

When you consider the kind of man Gideon was at this time, you wonder why God selected him; but God often chooses the "weak things of this world" to accomplish great things for His glory (I Cor. 1:26-29).

Moldova – choose teams the old-fashion way

Notice the spirit of Gideon – **vs. 13** – "The Lord has forsaken us" – blaming God

Blame God

Gideon is defeated, deflated, disillusioned, discouraged, and doubting

Do you know how many of God's people feel the same way about church and God?

Before the Lord could use Gideon in His service, He had to deal with doubts that plagued him and were obstacles to his faith.

These doubts are expressed in a question.

## 1. “Does God really care about us?” (Jud. 6:1-13)

Gideon says, “The Lord has forsaken us!” . . . and yet the Lord had given Israel proof of His personal concern.

*He had chastened them (vv. 1-6)*

Chastening is evidence . . .

*He had rebuked them (vv. 7-10)*

*Now He came down to help them (vv. 11-13)*

Have we ever in our hearts thought this way toward God?

We have been forgotten, forsaken.

The Lord had not forsaken Israel

The truth is – Israel had forsaken God

God is powerful; God is not deficient

Man was the problem

Gideon wasn't thinking right or seeing right

Gideon's own father had an idol in his home

Isaiah 59:1-4, *“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.”*

When we blame God, does it help things?

By the way, who is Gideon talking to?

The Angel of the Lord – he is talking to the very One he doubts!

The Lord Himself –notice vs. 14a

Vs. 14b

Notice that God reassures Gideon

God has given to Gideon – His promise, power, and presence

He has given to us the identical things:

We have the promises of His Word

We have the power of God

We have the indwelling Holy Spirit, God's presence in our life

Have not I sent thee?

Let me ask us all a question:

Has God not sent our church?

Will God provide for us?

Will He give us what we need?

Can we win souls?

Can we impact the world?

Can we be victorious?

Let our faith be big as a church –

Let us remember our Great and Mighty God!

Let us stand for closing invitation.