

Judges, Sermon #20

Judges 6

First – Gideon’s world

Second – Gideon himself

Judges 6

Let us pray

God makes Gideon some promises:

Vs. 12 – “I am with thee”

Vs. 14 – “I am sending thee”

Gideon’s first response, “The Lord hath forsaken us”

His second response is in 6:15, “How can I save Israel?”

God has given Gideon everything he needs for victory, but Gideon has a confidence problem

Gideon is making excuses. He says in vs. 15

1. “I am poor”
2. “I am the least” – youngest son

Gideon was truly a “nobody” – he was fully aware of his limitations.

Gideon focused on what he was, not who God was.

He focused on what he could do, not what God could do.

Gideon saw only limitations and defeat – he failed to see that God could work through his life and what God could do with his life

We look at ourselves sometimes, and we draw the same conclusions!

We need to remind ourselves of John 15:5, *“Without Me ye can do nothing.”*

Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

Our greatest need is not self-esteem or self-confidence – it is confidence in our God

John 20:27-29, *“Then saith he to Thomas, ‘Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said unto Him, ‘My Lord and my God.’ Jesus saith unto him, ‘Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.’”*

Gideon said – I can’t do it because #1, I don’t have money, and #2, I am not known, not popular.

Gideon said – my family is poor!

Israel’s problem is not going to be solved with money.

Israel did not need money, Israel needed God

America’s problem is not going to be solved with money.

America does not need money; America needs God.

#1 – fortune

#2 – fame

We do not need to be socially great, status symbol in order to be spiritually used

We do not need fame; we need faith

We need men and women who love God, love His Word, and love people – simply, we need to be faithful

Gideon cries – I’m a “nobody,” Lord

Good, God says, that’s just what I am looking for!

I Corinthians 1:27-29, *“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence.”*

God is great at using unknowns!

God will use us if we are willing!

Gideon is a great example of God using the unusable.

God says to Gideon – vs. 16

But Gideon wants a sign – he wants confirmation that this message is truly from God. He is still weak in faith, so Gideon brings a present to the Angel.

Vs. 17-18

Vs. 19

The sacrifice is prepared – a goat and an unleavened cake – this would take hours to prepare

This also demonstrates a sacrifice on Gideon’s part – this is quite a meal!

The bread alone could have fed a family for days.

This was a true sacrificial gift!

Now, look at what happens – vs. 20-21

Gideon now realizes who his guest was – vs. 22

Gideon is gripped by fear – 6:11, 22, 27

Fear runs through Gideon's life

Vs. 23-24

So Gideon built an altar and called it "The Lord is peace."

The Hebrew word for "peace" (*shalom*) means much more than an ending of hostilities but carries with it the ideas of well-being, health, and prosperity.

Gideon now believed the Lord was able to use him, not because of who he was but because of who God was.

Whenever God calls us to a task that we think is beyond us, we must be careful to look to God and not to ourselves.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" God asked Abraham (Gen. 18:14); and the answer comes, "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

Job discovered that God could do everything

Job 42:2, *"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee."*

And Jeremiah admitted that there was nothing too hard for God

Jeremiah 32:17, *"Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee."*

Jesus told His disciples, *"With God all things are possible"* (Matt. 19:26)

Examples of Gideon's unbelief

- a. "The LORD hath forsaken us"
- b. "Wherewith shall I save Israel"
- c. "Shew me a sign"

"Does God know what He's doing?"

Gideon's first response was to question God's *concern* for His people, but then he questioned *God's wisdom* in choosing him to be the nation's deliverer.

Faith means obeying God in spite of what we see, how we feel, or what the consequences might be.

Let us stand for closing invitation

Rear of Document

Gideon believed you had to be something to be used by God

Gideon is a great encouragement to people who have a hard time accepting themselves and believing that God can make anything out of them or do anything with them.