

Judges, Sermon #21

Judges 6 – jump back into our study

What is a judge? He is a savior of the people – he is the deliverer

Why does Israel need a judge?

I've entitled tonight's sermon "Gideon, God's Chosen Man"

Judges 6:25

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Judges 6:25-27

Let us pray

You may be seated.

Gideon, God's Chosen Man

Gideon was truly a "nobody"

Yet an angel said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."

Gideon was fully aware of his limitations and told God so – vs. 15

"I can't sing."

I am fully aware of it, but there was a time in my life I thought I could sing.

Here's the problem: Gideon focused on who he was, not who God was

Gideon focused on what he could do, not what God could do through him.

★So, Gideon saw only limitations and defeats; he failed to see what God could do with his life—critical mistake that most of us make

Our greatest need is not self-esteem, self-confidence, or money.

What we need is confidence and trust in God.

Gideon says, "I can't do it; I can't be Israel's judge. I don't have any money; I am poor.

I am not known—not popular."

If you know your Bible, this is just the kind of person that God is looking for.

Our problems are not solved with money, not solved with fame.

Israel needed God; America needs God; and we need God.

Gideon said, God had forsaken us – vs. 13

Gideon's first response was to question God's concern for the people.

Is God concerned about us? YES!

Then he said to God, "How can I save Israel?"

Gideon questioned God's wisdom in selecting him to be the judge.

Does God know what He is doing?

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

Then Gideon said to God, "Show me a sign."

★We are always wanting God to do something for us—but God calls on us to demonstrate our trust and faith in Him.★

And God called on Gideon.

The first assignment given to Gideon was a test: God gave him a very difficult assignment

Gideon was to give a strong witness for God before his own family and neighbors.

Thus, God wasted no time in testing Gideon's commitment.

The LORD commanded in vs. 25

#1 – To destroy the false worship center built to Baal on his father's property

Vs. 26 – #2 – To build a true altar of worship to the LORD on the very same location and to offer a burnt sacrifice to the LORD

Knowing Gideon, God assigned him a task right at home to show him that He would see him through.

This is what develops our faith.

If we don't practice our faith at home, how can we practice it sincerely any place else?

The command to tear down the altar first would address the root problem of the nation, not just the symptom.

The main problem of Israel was not the Midianites, it was Israel's forsaking of the Lord.

Getting rid of the Midianites would not solve their problem because their problem was with the heart.

The huge host of problems that God's people face can be traced to forsaking the Lord. These root problems must be conquered if there is going to be spiritual victory and growth.

Huge problems our Country faces can be traced to forsaking the Lord. And if there is going to be success as a Country, we must look at the root problems, not the symptoms

Real solution to sexual diseases is not newer and better medicines. It's abstinence.

Gideon had to take his stand in his own village before he dared to face the enemy on the battlefield.

Before God gives His servants great victories in public, He prepares them by giving them smaller victories at home.

Before David killed Goliath in the sight of two armies, he learned to trust God by killing a lion and a bear in the field where nobody saw it but God (I Samuel 17:32-37).

When we prove that we're faithful with a few things, God will trust us with greater things.

You say it; I do it.

It's a matter of the will – submission.

Matthew 25:21, “. . . *‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.’*”

"We are tested in the less, before being called to the greater."

There needs to be a commitment in the smaller tasks before greater tasks can be handled.

If we want to do great things for God, then we must be faithful in little things.

God said there had to be destruction before there was construction.

Gideon had to destroy the altar of Baal before he could raise an altar to God.

We need to rip out, cut out, kill some things in our own life.

There was to be no compromise with evil.

God wanted the false altar destroyed before the true altar was dedicated.

(Colossians 3 principle) . . . involves destruction of obstructions, and instruction and construction of that which is good and righteous.

Clean out our own house first

If we are going to be victorious in our Christian life, then we must apply steps which involve:

***removal** of the sinful

***approval** of the positive (replace sinful living with holy living)

***disapproval** of the neutral (we are not to compromise with evil and be lukewarm in our attitude)

When we fail to deal with our hindrances, our service for Christ is hindered.

Before Gideon delivers the nation, he needed to deliver his own family.

What God was asking was not easy. It would create trouble for sure!

Going God's way is the best way, but it can be the most difficult as well.

Let us stand for closing invitation.