

Judges, Sermon #23

Judges 6

Gideon's next adventure

I hope you have been excited to study the life of Gideon.

I've entitled tonight's message "The Midianites Have Arrived!"

Unwanted guests

Judges 6:33

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

Judges 6:33-40

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

The Midianites Have Arrived!

For seven years the Midianites have been invading the grocery store of Israel and cleaning off the shelves – shopping carts in – 6:6
They have returned again to the breadbasket of Israel.

This was an annual occurrence/invasion of the Midianites.
So, for the eighth year in succession they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the valley.
They were like a bunch of buzzards sitting in a tree.

However, when the Midianites returned to Israel this time, something was different. There was a “Beware of the Dog” sign hanging in Jezreel and Gideon is the dog.

Gideon and his people are tired of being hounded, grounded, confounded, and surrounded.

Judges 6:2

They are tired of fleeing underground, of being kicked around.
It's time for a drastic turnaround and a turnaround is what they got—compliments of the Spirit of God.

Vs. 34

Great changes have taken place in Gideon's life. He is not the same man. When we met him in Judges 6:11, he was defeated, discouraged, disillusioned, and doubting.

Now Gideon is determined, daring, and defiant toward the enemies of God. He is like a new man. What happened?

- ◆ He met the Lord personally face to face.
- ◆ He decisively committed himself to obeying the Lord – Daniel purposed.
- ◆ He came under the control of the Holy Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit dominated Gideon's life at this time, indwelling him with His power.

Let me take a few moments to look at

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testament

Old Testament	New Testament
1. Not all O.T. believers were indwelt by the Spirit of God.	1. Holy Spirit now indwells all believers. (Romans 8:9) If we don't have the Spirit of Christ, the Bible says we are none of His.
2. The Holy Spirit entered people for special times and special tasks.	2. The Spirit is given not just for service, but for daily life and living.
3. The Spirit did not always permanently indwell believers. He did depart from some. Ex: Samson – Judges 16:20; Saul – I Samuel 16:14 David said (Psalm 51:11), "Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me."	3. The Holy Spirit is with us forever. We are sealed for eternity and are eternally secure in Christ. John 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:13-14
4. The outward man was affected with strength and courage.	4. The Spirit transforms the inward as well as the outward. Our character is changed. II Cor. 5:17

With the Spirit of God in control, Gideon sounds the war trumpet.

Judges 6:34

- ◆ For seven years the war trumpet slumbered in silence.
- ◆ For seven years no one had courage to moisten their lips and place them on the shofar to sound the call to arms.
- ◆ For seven years no one would implement the need to *heed* God's Word, *plead* God's cause, *lead* God's people, or be willing to *bleed* for God's country.

God's people were fed up and started to call on the Lord – 6:7

When God's people get **fed up** with their sin, they will begin a **checkup** of their heart and will **make up** with God and others they have wronged.

This will help them **develop** in spiritual maturity causing them to **get going** for the Lord.

Gideon sounds the war trumpet and look who answers the battle call first—vs. 34—

Abi-ezer (Aby-ezer)

This is the family of Abi-ezer.

Do you know who these folks are? This is Gideon's clan – 6:11

Some of these folks wanted him dead a few days ago for the destruction of the altar of Baal. They have changed!

The Lord brought revival into their hearts.

One man said, “NO MORE!”

Notice the impact he made on those around him.

Obedience at home brought a response from home.

One person in the home, work place, church, or school can have a great impact for Christ.

He first blew the trumpet in his own hometown, and the men rallied behind him.

His witness had obviously led many to turn back to the LORD.

Once his own hometown had responded, Gideon sounded the trumpet throughout the northern tribes – vs. 35

Over 32,000 Israelite soldiers mobilized for war (7:3)
Thus at Gideon's call, 32,000 men responded.

Keep in mind that Gideon was not a military commander but a farmer.

He stood at the head of the Israelite army with no experience in planning military strategy.

And worse still, he was responsible for the lives of the 32,000 Israelite men who were facing an enemy of trained soldiers that numbered 135,000 (Judges 8:10) plus numerous camels (7:12).

Who was Gideon to be leading these men against such a formidable foe and in such an impossible task?

His men were outnumbered four to one, and they were all foot soldiers fighting against trained camel-riding marauders.

What chance did 32,000 men have against an army of 135,000 men plus numberless camels?

Guess what Gideon does—he second guesses.

God, are you sure? Let me put out a fleece.

And, we will look at this next week.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Are we tired of being defeated? Living in failure?

Seek the Lord.

Decisively commit to obey the Lord.

Come under control of the Holy Spirit.

We cannot have the Spirit of God unless we are saved.