

Mighty Man of Valor

Text : **Judges 6--7**

A. Have you ever felt totally abandoned by God ?

S#1.
S#2.

1. You believe in God, but you feel He's not there when you need Him.
2. *"If God loves me why is He letting this happen to me?"*
3. This is the way Israel was feeling in our text.

Judges 6: 13 – Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

S#3.

B. As we study about Israel, the lesson is for us to see ourselves in the events.

1. God communicates Himself, His will, and His ways to us in the O.T. stories.

Rom. 15: 4 – For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

S#4.

2. God is the same today as He was in the days of Gideon.

Heb. 13: 8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

3. He teaches us how He has dealt with people in the past so we will know He will deal with us now or in the future.

James 1: 17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

S#5.

C. Israel made a covenant with God and so do Christians.

1. **Exod. 24:3** – Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!"

S#6.

2. God will neither forget His promises to us nor our promises to Him.

Deut. 11: 26 – See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: **27** the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today; **28** and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known.

S#7.

3. Christians are warned and are promised :

a. **II Tim. 3: 11b** – ... what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (*pressure to conform*)

S#8.

- b. **Rev. 2: 10** – Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is **S#9.**
about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested,
and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death.
and I will give you the crown of life.

I. Establish the context.

S#10.

A. Many of the nations in Canaan traced their heritage back to Abraham. **S#11.**

1. Israel was composed of the family of Abraham's grandson, **Jacob**, renamed **Israel**.
2. Amalek was the grandson of **Esau**, the grandson of Abraham.
3. Moabites and Ammonites were from the incest between **Lot** and his daughters.
4. Midianites stemmed from Midian the son of **Abraham** by his second wife, Keturah.
 - a. The wife of Moses, Zipporah, was a Midianite and her father was their priest.
 - b. The Midianites were allies of Israel until Israel began to encroach on their pastures
5. The Ishmaelites (Judges 8:24) were descendants of Abram's oldest son by Hagar.

B. Israel was being robbed by hoards of raiders that took their harvest annually..

1. These were migrant shepherds who would live off of what they could steal.
Judges 6:5 – For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, they **S#12.**
would come in like locusts for number, both they and their camels
were innumerable; and they came into the land to devastate it.
2. They were an irresistible force.
 - a. They came with overwhelming numbers.
 - b. They had camels ... Largest domestic animal ... Camels were tall so shoot down
3. Year after year for 7 years the Midianites had timed their arrival with the harvest.

C. These annual raids had taken their toll on Israel.

1. Israel had become very impoverished. (*financially and emotionally*)
2. They reinforced their houses and made hiding places in the mountains.
3. They were losing a lot of their women. (*women were considered a commodity*)
 - a. The Midianites bought and sold slaves.
Gen. 37: 28 – Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him **S#13.**
up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites
for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.
 - b. Imagine which women were left after they had been picked over for 7 years. 😊
 - * c. It had to have been a discouraging situation for All of the Israelites.

II. The Israelites called to God for relief, but their cries were in vain.**S#14.****A. They were in violation of the covenant they had made with God.**

1. **Judges 6: 9** – I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed them before you and gave you their land, **10** and I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me." **S#15.**
2. God will always keep His word ... He gave the choice, blessings or cursings.
Deut. 11: 26 – See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: **27** the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today; **28** and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known. (cf- **Matt 7: 21**) **S#16.**

B. The Midianites were only pillaging Israel because GOD sent them.**S#17.**

1. **Judges 6: 1** – Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord gave them into the hands of Midian seven years.
2. God is in control of ALL governments. **S#18.**
Dan. 2: 20 – Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. **21** It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.
3. Some protest that was only in O.T. times, but God's rule is forever sovereign.
Rom. 13: 1 – Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. **S#19.** For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

C. Jesus is the ruler of all rulers.

1. **Rev. 1: 5** – ... And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. **S#20.**
2. **I Tim. 6: 15** – until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** ... — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

III. Repentance is the first step in gaining God's assistance.**S#21.****A. When Israel cried out for deliverance, God sent a preacher.****S#22.**

1. God is telling Israel they need to repent.
Judges 6: 7 – Now it came about when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord on **S#23.**

account of Midian, **8** that the Lord sent a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out from the house of slavery. **9** I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed them before you and gave you their land, **10** and I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me.

2. The prophet Isaiah warned of God's unwillingness to rescue unrepentant sinners.

Isa. 59 : 1 – Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is **S#24.** His ear so dull that it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

B. America has the same problem that vexed Israel.

1. Our government is corrupted by sin at every level.
 - a. Our government officials are involved in controversy instead of service.
 - b. We have murdered more babies in the womb than men killed in all wars.

2. Churches set dying on the vine. (Not warning the people)

Rev. 3: 1 – To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven **S#25.** Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ' I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. **2** 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

- a. Define success on attendance in services. Little fellowship and less service.
 - b. Practically no evangelism. "We have taken the GO out of the gospel."
3. Modern Christians are TOO busy for God.
 - a. Our relationship with God is reserved for Sundays only. Christianity takes time.
 - b. Many activities that are not bad in themselves, but they replace service to God.

James 1: 22 – But prove yourselves doers of the word, and **S#26.** not merely hearers who delude themselves.

James 2: 26 – For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

C. By sending a preacher God indicated that He would accept their repentance.

1. Repentance is God's alternative to judgment.

Ezek. 18: 30 – "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to **S#27.** his conduct," declares the Lord God. "Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.

2. When the barrier of sin is removed, God can and will provide relief to suffering.

S#28.

IV. The angel of Jehovah approaches Gideon in a way that he thought strange.

(*Remember Mary's response to the angel when he approached her.* Lk 1:29-30)

A. Gideon was hiding in a winepress to avoid detection by the raiders.

1. His actions were motivated by fear, not valor.
2. A winepress is a very inconvenient place to thresh wheat ... no wind.

B. The “Angel of the Lord” appeared and sat under an oak tree.

1. Oak tree was symbolic ... the idols were buried under an oak tree.

- a. The Lord met with Abraham under an oak tree.

Gen. 18: 1 – Now the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.

S#29.

- b. Jacob hid pagan idols under an oak tree.

Gen. 35: 4 – So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.

2. In the O.T. “Angel of the Lord” refers to Jesus.

- a. The theological term for this is a “Christophany.”

- b. Compare ... Gen 12:7; 17:1; 19:1; etc.

C. Vs-12 Jesus addressed Gideon “The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior.”

S#30.

1. Gideon was hiding and saw himself as neither a warrior nor as valiant.
2. Gideon argues with the Lord :
 - a. If I was a “**valiant warrior**” why would I be hiding just to thresh a little wheat?
 - b. I’m here because the Lord has abandoned our nation.
3. The Lord sees you and me as what He made us to be not as you see yourself.

D. The Lord reassured Gideon, my presence shows you that you are able.

1. When the Lord calls us to a task, He enables us to accomplish it.
2. Gideon looked at his own strength, **not** at what the Lord can use us to do.
 - a. I’m from the smallest tribe in the God forsaken nation.
 - b. My family is the smallest family in our tribe,
 - c. I’m the youngest and least influential in our small family. –

3. The same response as Saul had when he was chosen.

I Sam. 9: 21 – Saul replied, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak to me in this way?" **S#31.**

4. Many Christians have the same response ... I can't because.

E. Gideon worshipped God, but his faith was still growing. **S#32.**

1. God was helping to build the faith of Gideon .. **"Fire Out of a Rock"**
2. When Gideon believed, he feared for his life.

CONCLUSION :

A. What can we learn from the calling of Gideon ? **S#33.**

1. Gideon had become accustomed to a bad situation and accepted it as normal.
*We set in the pews and accept the lack of activity as normal. (**worship society**)*
2. Gideon, yea all of Israel, had abandoned God for Baal without realizing it.
We all tend to accept things as they have always been while slowly moving away.
3. Gideon saw himself and the world around him as being limited to his own strength.
We see the church and ourselves as being the least in the smallest of the smallest.

S#34.

B. God didn't call Gideon because of what he was, but for how God could use him.

1. Gideon was cowering in a safe hiding place. **Weak in faith and without courage.**
2. God used Gideon to do great things and HE can us you.

C. The only **ability that God absolutely requires of you is **availability**.** **S#35.**

D. God can and will use you if YOU will surrender yourself to Him. **S#36.**

INVITATION :

S#37. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Judges 6: 7-27**

7 Now it came about when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord on account of Midian, **8** that the Lord sent a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out from the house of slavery. **9** 'I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed them before you and gave you their land, **10** and I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me.'""

11 Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. **12** The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior." **13** Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." **14** The Lord looked at him and said, "Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?" **15** He said to Him, "O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house." **16** But the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man." **17** So Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speak with me. **18** "Please do not depart from here, until I come back to You, and bring out my offering and lay it before You." And He said, "I will remain until you return."

19 Then Gideon went in and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour; he put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, and brought them out to him under the oak and presented them. **20** The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. **21** Then the angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight. **22** When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the Lord, he said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." **23** The Lord said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." **24** Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

25 Now on the same night the Lord said to him, "Take your father's bull and a second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal which belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it; **26** and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of this stronghold in an orderly manner, and take a second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you shall cut down." **27** Then Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had spoken to him; and because he was too afraid of his father's household and the men of the city to do it by day, he did it by night.