**Gideon**

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**Gideon’s Life is Shown in Judges 6:11 – 8:32**

Suffered at the hands of the Midians, Amalekites and other foreigners from the east.

Midianites were descendants of Moses’ and his wife Keturah and their son, Midian.

**God sent a Prophet**

Judges 6:8 – **To REMIND** the people of what God had done and **TO TELL** the people what God **WOULD DO IF THEY WOULD FOLLOW HIM**.

And that was **TO BRING DELIVERANCE**.

A lot of people don’t think PROPHETS still exist but when Jesus ascended, he gave gifts to us. Those gifts we call the “Ministry gifts” or the “Ascension Gifts”. We see them in Ephesians 4.

*11Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.*

**The main purpose of the Prophet Old and New Testament is:**

***To speak the mind, will and purpose of God.***

 This involves teaching (foundational principals)

 It may involve pronouncing judgment

 Some modern day prophets pastor churches

 Some modern day prophets act as evangelists

Their main job is to make sure people understand the “mind, will and purpose of God.”

They may seem “hard” in their approach sometimes

Judges 6:11 The Angel of the Lord – Jesus in the Old Testament.

The “Angel of the Lord” was Jesus before He laid down His “DEITY” and took on His “HUMANITY.”

**What is the very first thing the Lord said to Gideon?**

**Judges 6:12 (KJV)**
12  And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, **The LORD *is* with thee, thou mighty man of valour.**

We don’t have any record of Gideon having ever fought in Israel’s army.

The word, “valor” means - great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle. And, I would add, ***courage that goes above and beyond the call of duty and ordinary courage***.

 We have seen several of our soldiers receive medals of honor for acts of bravery and valor in war.

God CALLS THINGS THAT **BE NOT** AS THOUGH THEY ARE!

**Romans 4:17 (KJV)**
17  (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

If you ever think “this FAITH thing” is a bunch of baloney and “speaking” things before they come to pass is wrong you need to know who God operates. FAITH is NOW and look at what the definition of FAITH is:

**Hebrews 11:1** NOW FAITH IS **(NOT WAS, NOT IS GOING TO BE, IT IS)** THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR AND THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.

Judges 6:27 Gideon was AFRAID of the townspeople so he did what God commanded Him to do at night!

God still called him a “Might Man of Valor” but did he LOOK LIKE a might man of valor?

 Without the Holy Spirit, none of us are anything!

Judges 6:32 Gideon was called Jerubbaal for tearing down the altar to Baal.

Judges 6:34 Then the **Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon**, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.

Judges 6:35 He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.

**THE FLEECE**

Gideon used the fleece to see if God would really use him to deliver Israel. The first test was to see if the fleece would be wet with the dew of the morning but everything surrounding it would be dry. Sure enough, the ground was dry and the fleece was full of water.

The second test with the fleece was for the fleece to be dry and the ground wet and it turned out just as Gideon had said.

**SHOULD WOULD PUT FLEECES OUT FOR THE LORD?**

**The story of Gideon should be for our instruction and not serve as a model for our own behavior.** Jesus said on two occasions that “a wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign” ([Matthew 12:39](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matthew%2012.39); [16:1-4](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matthew%2016.1-4)). His point was that the signs He had already given them—His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, healings, and miracles—were sufficient for them to respond to the truth, if truth was what they were seeking. Clearly, it was not.

**REDUCING THE ARMY**

32,000 Men in the army Vs 121,500 (Judges 8:10)

Men who were in fear sent home – those who drank from cupped hands were allowed to remain. That left only 300.

**Gideon was Still Afraid**

Would you be afraid?

**Judges 7:10** If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. 11 and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp.

**Gideon and Purah HEARD the dream. ALL THAT WAS NEEDED WAS FOR GIDEON TO APPLY THE ACTION!**

**Faith is BELIEF followed by a SPONTANEOUS, CORRESPONDING ACTION!**

**The victory was theirs if they would APPLY THE ACTION!**

**APPLY THE ACTION - THE VICTORY IS YOURS!**

Judges 8:7 Gideon expresses his faith in FINAL victory and says he will come back and punish this city for not feeding his warriors.

At one city, he uses the thorns from the wilds to punish the city leaders in the one city and he tore down the tower in Penial and killed all the men there for not feeding his weary troops.

Then Gideon asked for the earrings from each soldier. The men they killed wore earrings. He made an ephod which caused problems in his family. They weighed 1700 shekels.

1 Biblical shekel = 0.497 ounces = 844.9 ounces of gold

1 ounce = .911458333 troy ounces = 770.09 troy ounces of gold

770.09 troy ounces of gold

$1,350 per ounce of gold = $1,039,623.05

**LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM GIDEON’S LIFE**

**God calls things that are NOT as though they ARE.**

 **Mark 11:22-24 Have the GOD KIND of FAITH**

 **Knowing this, we can understand how we RECEIVE WHEN WE PRAY!**

**God is incredibly merciful to us in our lack of faith.**

**God had done all the WORK – WE MUST APPLY THE ACTION!**

 **The SAME JESUS that WON the victory for Gideon WILL win the Victory for YOU IF YOU APPLY THE ACTION!**