

Gideon: Mighty Man of Valor
Judges 6:11-16, Judges 7:1-11, 15-18, 22, Judges 8:4

I. Intro

- A. Mighty Man of Valor
 - 1. Valor: Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle.
 - 2. We desire to be people of valor!
- B. Today, Valor seems hard to find...
- C. Valor in ministry may look like Gideon, or David
- D. My challenge to North Park:
 - 1. Stay connected
 - 2. Get involved in a small group
 - 3. Don't lose your drive or focus, be a tool in the hand of God!

II. Text

- A. Judges 6:11-16
 - 1. Gideon is hiding in the winepress when he is called by God
 - 2. The Angel of the Lord appears and refers to Gideon as a mighty man of valor
 - 3. Gideon's response:
 - a) Where have you been?
 - b) Send someone else
 - c) My family is weak
 - d) I am weak
 - 4. God's response:
 - a) BUT I AM WITH YOU
 - b) You shall strike the Midianites as one man.
- B. Recap:
 - 1. Gideon continues to reluctantly do what God has asked of him, eventually.
 - 2. Gideon destroys an idol, but does it at night,
 - a) so they begin to call him Jerubbaal
 - b) Jerubbaal--This had now become Gideon's honorable surname, "the enemy of Baal."
 - 3. Gideon then wants to make extra sure, and he asks for a sign in the fleece, twice
- C. Judges 7
 - 1. 1-11
 - a) 3200 was too many, God explains why in verse 2
 - b) Make no mistake, this was about God's deliverance, not mans.
 - c) The number was reduced to 300, because God wanted the number so small that man couldn't misplace their dependance.
 - d) Ive heard:
 - (1) The reason the 300 were chosen was because they were able to remain vigilant in the way they drank the water.
 - (2) This cannot be true if verse 2 is true.
 - (3) THIS IS NOT ABOUT MAN'S ABILITY, BUT GOD'S PLAN
 - 2. 15-18
 - a) They are prepared for "battle"
 - b) The time had come
 - c) The moment of decision was here
 - d) "For the Lord and for Gideon"
 - 3. 22
 - a) God did His work
 - b) The Army did not fight, or win the battle
 - c) The Midianites turned against one another
 - d) God works in the way of His choosing to accomplish His best plan

III. Point

A. Transformation:

1. Transformation occurs in various ways
2. Gideon was hiding, then arguing, then delaying, then testing, then trusting, then doing, then pursuing.
3. He went from hiding in the wine press, to “exhausted yet pursuing” by the power of God.
4. Gideon had been discouraged:
 - a) God had not delivered them the way he thought he should.
 - b) The enemies were all around and numbered like the sand on the shore
 - c) He was afraid, even in obedience, yet he continued.
5. Gideon and David contrast:
 - a) David ran to the battle and faced the giant
 - b) Gideon hid, and negotiated with God
 - c) You can relate to one or the other, but both were used by God.
6. Think of it this way:
 - a) You have been changed
 - b) You are being changed
 - c) You are a continued work of transformation

B. God’s Presence:

1. “Go in this might of yours”
 - a) What might did he have? Gideon’s might was limited to the fear he was living in.
 - b) What He had and didn’t know it...God had a plan!
2. “But, I will be with you.”
 - a) This is the power Gideon had
 - b) Not by his own power, but by the power of God.
3. Why does God call him a “mighty man of valor?”
 - a) Because God knew, and He chose.
 - b) Because God had a plan, and that plan was to use Gideon to accomplish something that would have been impossible if left to the flesh and strength of men.

C. Can you relate?

1. Gideon was chosen by God to accomplish a work that was outside his own ability, and really outside his own desire.
2. He wanted to be rescued, but he wanted someone to rescue him, not to be the rescuer.
3. God chose the least obvious of people, with no obvious gifts or skill set, and compelled him to serve.
4. The results were from obedience, and obedience didn’t come quickly.
5. Gideon even did it wrong...asking for a second sign.
 - a) He said, “Let not your anger burn against me.”
 - b) He knew he was out of line, but God was still gracious.
6. Lets be real in our application:
 - a) We are going to question the wisdom of God...sounds foolish when said out loud, because it is.
 - b) We are going to test God...he welcomes the testing and has yet to fail
 - c) We are Exhausted!
 - d) Are we Pursuing?

IV. Close

- A. Let us continue to pursue
- B. Let us never let down our guard
- C. Let us teach the word
- D. Let us proclaim the truth
- E. Let us stay in the fight!

2 Corinthians 12:10

10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.