

# GIDEON

## Int.

1. Aim: To explain the story about Gideon and point out some lessons for us today as Christians.
2. 1 Cor. 10:11 **"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."**
3. We can learn a lot from experience. It is a good teacher.
  - a. We can also learn from the experience of others.
  - b. Education is knowledge passed from the experience of others.
4. In this lesson we will learn from the experience of a man called Gideon
  - a. Judges 6-7 - Israel was in bondage to Midianites
  - b. He was the fifth Judge of the nation of Israel - he had the greatest character
  - c. Gideon was known as a "Mighty man of valor"

## Discussion

### **I. THE STORY OF GIDEON** - Judges 6-7

#### A. Chapter 6 - Setting of story

1. V. 1 - People did evil again, = therefore delivered into hands of Midianites for 7 years.
2. V. 2 - Hid in caves - hunted like wild beasts
3. V. 3-6 - The multitude of the enemy took the land and everything in it. Israelites in Poverty.
4. V. 7 - They cried to the Lord for Help
5. V. 8-10 - Prophet sent -- God brought you forth and because you disobeyed you have been in this condition, but do not fear He will bring you forth again.

## B. Selection of Gideon

1. V. 11 - Angel came to Gideon, son of Joash, while he thrashed wheat by the winepress for fear of Midianites.
2. V. 12 - Angel spoke, Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor.
3. V. 13 - Gideon asks -- If the Lord is with us then why are we in such a condition.
4. V. 14 - Angel said, Go and thou shalt save Israel from this.
5. V. 15 - Gideon said he was poor and had not many in his family.
6. V. 16 - Angel assured Him that God would be with Him.
7. V. 17 - Gideon wanted a sign to know for sure.
8. V. 18 - Gideon told the angel to wait, angel tarried.
9. V. 19 - Prepared feast and brought to angel under oak tree.
10. V. 20 - Angel told him to lay it on rock and pour broth on it.
11. V. 21 - Then the angel touched it with staff and consumed by fire.
12. V. 22 - Gideon understood it was an angel of the Lord, then he was afraid he would die since he had seen the angel
13. V. 23 - Lord told him he would not die.
14. V. 24 - Gideon built an altar to God and called it "Jehovah is my peace."

## C. Baal Overthrown by Gideon

1. V. 25 - Lord told him to throw down altar of Baal and destroy the grove.
2. V. 26 - Build an altar to God and sacrifice bullock on it.
3. V. 27 - Gideon and ten servants obeyed by night.
4. V. 28-29 - Men arose and saw it and accused Gideon of it.

5. V. 30 - They spoke to his father and asked him to bring his son that he might die for this deed.
6. V. 31 - Joash said if Baal be a god let him avenge his own injuries.
7. V. 32 - Jerubbaal - let Baal plead or contend.
8. V. 33 - Hearing of Gideon's deeds the Midianites and the Amalekites were preparing for battle.

#### D. Proof to Gideon of God's Help

1. V. 34-35 - God spoke to Gideon again.
2. V. 36-40 - Proof to Gideon that God was with them -- miracle of fleece and dew.

#### E. Chapter 7 Selection of Army

1. V. 1 - Jerubbaal - same as Gideon, with army of 32,000 - pitched against the enemy who had 135,000 [4 to 1 odds]
2. V. 2 - Lord said he had too many lest they feel they saved themselves, they must decrease the number.
3. V. 3 - Tell those afraid to return -- 22,000 left -- 135,000 for enemy [6 to 1 odds]
4. V. 4 - Lord said they still had too many - test
5. V. 5 - He that lapped as a dog, set to self, and those that bow down set aside.
6. V. 6 - 300 lapped as a dog, put their hands to their mouth.
7. V. 7 - All others were to leave - had his army of 300!!! [450 to 1 odds]

## F. Training of Army

1. V. 8 - These 300 got their trumpets and victuals and left to fight.
2. V. 9 - Go down and take them - I have delivered them unto thee
3. V. 10-11 - If you fear take your servant down and spy out the place.
4. V. 12-14 - They went down and heard of the dream and interpretation
5. V. 15 - Convinced him that God had delivered them into his hand.

## G. Preparation and the Battle

1. V. 16 - Divided into three companies, all had a trumpet, pitcher, and lamp
2. V. 17-18 - Gideon instructs the men on what to do and say
3. V. 19 - Gideon and 300 men blow trumpets and break pitchers.
4. V. 20 - All 300 did the same and cried out "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon."
5. V. 21 - Every man stood in his place and the Midianites destroyed themselves and fled.
6. V. 22 - The 300 blew their trumpets and the enemy fled.
7. V. 23 - The Israelites pursued them.
8. V. 24 - They met them at the fords of the Jordan River.
9. V. 25 - Captured two of the princes, and brought heads to Gideon on the other side of Jordan.

## **II. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM GIDEON**

### **A. # 1 It Pays to Serve God**

1. The Lord is against evil doers

a. Judges 6:1 **"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years."**

b. This happened time after time after time.

c. Cain and Abel illustrate this truth. Gen. 4

d. In the N.T. Ananias and Sapphira did evil - the Lord was against them - they were killed. Acts 5:1-11

e. If we love the world then We do not Love God and he will be against us.

f. 1 Jn.2:15 **"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."**

2. It always pays to serve God.

a. In due time God will use us for his purpose if we are prepared

b. JUDGES 6:12 **"And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour."**

(1) Valour - "strength of mind or spirit which enables a man to encounter danger with firmness; personal bravery."

(2) Mighty = How much valour did he have? He is described by this word mighty. He possessed valor to an extraordinary degree.

(3) "The Lord is with Thee" - When God is with us it makes a majority.

c. It always pays to serve God

- d. 1 PET 5:6 **"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"**
- e. GAL 6:9 **"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."**
- f. Paul was a great servant of God. 2 Tim. 4:6-8 **"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."**
- g. You will never be sorry you became a Christian!!

## B. **# 2 GOD CAN'T USE COWARDS**

1. 22,000 were afraid - left - Gideon and 300 were brave men
2. God cannot use us today if we are cowards.
3. 1 PET 3:14 **"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;"**
4. REV 21:7 8 **"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."**
  - a. Fearful = cowards - faint hearted

- b. These are Christians who through cowardice give way under persecution and fall away.
  - c. They fear losing life or property and either will not obey the truth {even though they know it} or they fall away because they are not willing to pay the price.
  - d. Jn. 12:42-43 **Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43. For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."**
5. We are cowards if we:
- a. Go along with the crowd to commit a sin
  - b. Are ashamed of being a Christian
  - c. Will not put God first in our lives
  - d. Refuse to stand up and do what is right and what we know we ought to do even if others are doing wrong.
6. If you had been in that army of 32,000 would have been with that group of 22,000 who were cowards?
7. God can't use cowards. Can he use you?

### C. **#3 REQUIREMENTS FOR VICTORY:**

#### 1. Instruction

- a. Judges 7:17-18 - Gideon gave them the details
- b. We must be instructed in the details of Christian living if we would be victorious over sin
- c. 2 TIM 2:15 **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."**
- d. We are instructed to study the Bible - so we can know how to live - and be reminded - sometimes we forget.

#### 2. Unity

- a. Judges 7:21 - every man stood in his place
- b. If every man had not obeyed in unity then the Midianites would not have been scared.
- c. Unity is necessary if we are to overcome the devil
  - (1) Eph. 4:1-3 **"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3. Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."**
  - (2) There is strength in unity.
  - (3) Synergism. [See File on Synergism]

### 3. Bravery

a. Judges 7:21 - it took bravery for Gideon to attack this multitude with only 300 men.

(1) They had no weapons with which to fight

(2) Greatly outnumbered - 300 to 135,000 450 to 1

(3) They had to all stand in their place

b. It takes bravery to live the Christian life today

(1) Many are afraid to try, and others quit because they lack bravery

(2) 1 Pet. 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

### **Conclusion**

1. Gideon was not perfect - but God listed his name in the Great Hall of Faith in Heb. 11:32

2. Three great lessons we can learn from Gideon:

(1) It pays to Serve Jesus

(2) God can't use cowards

(3) Requirements for victory - instruction, unity, bravery

3. Will you serve God?

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