

Gideon

Judges 6

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. ² And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

1. They were still God's children, His people, but they were disobedient.
 - a. Did evil in the sight of God. Whatever they did, they couldn't hide it from God, He saw it. God sees the things we do. God's blessing doesn't keep them from sinning.
 - b. God spanked them by allowing someone else to oppress and rule over them. An enemy they had defeated earlier (Num 31:7) was now in control. God uses others to afflict us when we do evil and don't repent or change. It might look to us in the natural like its bad luck, but in the spiritual, God allows some things to happen to get us to repent.
 - c. 7 years, God's number; even though they were disobedient; He placed an expiration date on this problem/situation. But they were in this condition for a while until they changed.
2. Because of their disobedience and evil acts, the **enemy prevailed** against them. Meaning, **no matter what they tried to do to get victory or relief, the enemy was always getting the best of them.** Their circumstances never got much better.
 - a. Anybody ever experience a time when it seemed like no matter what you tried to do, you just couldn't get victory, couldn't get favor, couldn't catch a break; maybe you were doing evil.
 - b. Because of the enemy, they couldn't come out in the open, had to hide. Because of sin, they **lost their freedom.**

³ And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; ⁴ And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. ⁵ For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

3. Whatever they planted and tried to produce. Whenever they had some good stuff come up, the enemy would come up too. Trouble would arrive on the scene as well.
 - a. **When you are disobedient and doing evil, even when good things happen, you can expect bad stuff to come around too.** Some folk around you don't want you to have anything nice or good.

- b. They were still physically in the Promised Land, a fruitful place, but they couldn't enjoy it. They should have been out numbering their enemy according to the promise, but now their enemies outnumbered them.
 - c. Notice this, a true sign you have an enemy around you, they only come around when you finally get something. They cause you to want to try and hide your stuff from them. When they show up, they are not for you...they are against you.
 - d. Even the Amalekites joined in. When you are doing evil in the sight of God, even those things that you once defeated will come back and mess with you.
 4. They set up camp against them. Example, when I had a good fishing spot, people would show up and take over my spot. They have a purpose...to destroy your increase.
 - a. Note: when you are disobedient and doing evil, it doesn't say that they didn't experience increase, doesn't say they didn't experience a fruit bearing season, but it does say that they couldn't hold on to or keep what they earned for very long.
 - b. People in bondage don't hold on to their increase very long.
 - c. In fact, they won't leave you with anything. When you are disobedient and doing evil in the sight of the Lord, what you gain, you won't hold on to for very long. Will get it, can't keep it, and will eventually find yourself lacking. They won't leave you with much if anything. **What you are saving for may not last.**
 5. The enemy surrounded them, like locusts, so all they could see around them was trouble. All they could see in their future was trouble and coming destruction. The purpose of the enemy camping around them was to destroy them and keep them in bondage. Only reason they showed up and camped there was to destroy and take away what increase they had gained. Sin camps outside our door to keep us in bondage (see Genesis 4:7).
 - a. **Characteristics of an enemy.**
 - i. They want to take away from you what you got, but won't work for it like you did.
 - ii. They move in not expecting to contribute but to take advantage of you.
 - iii. Only want to get close to you and camp out near you so they can ruin you and destroy you.
 - iv. They bring their stuff with them. Their stuff becomes a problem for you in your life. They have so much stuff that you can't count the number of times their stuff, problems, issues, have caused you problems.

⁶ And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD. ⁷ And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, ⁸ That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; ⁹ And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; ¹⁰ And I said unto you, I am the LORD your

God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

6. God's people were broke as a joke because of these enemies, but take it down further, the only reason the enemy was there was because God allowed it or sent some trouble their way, and the only reason He sent that kind of trouble their way was because they were disobedient and did evil in the sight of God. Just do right and it will be alright.
 - a. When you do evil, God removes that layer of protection and stuff just starts happening.
 - b. What they had, they couldn't keep so now they were "greatly" impoverished. Not just a little broke.
 - i. No money, no food, no room in their place because all these enemies were living in there with them and brought all their stuff with them.
 - ii. No joy, no peace, broke in their joy account, bankrupt in victories. Empty, broke.
 - c. They didn't cry to the Lord until they were broke and in poverty. Why does it take that long and all of that before they cry out for help?
 - d. Offering was going to Baal rather than to God; praise going there rather than to the Lord.
7. When they finally discovered they couldn't get out of this mess themselves and they returned to God for help, something started to happen in their favor.
 - a. You ain't got to wait till you're broke to do right, but it's nice to know when you are broke and broken, that you can still cry out to the Lord and He will hear. They cried out because of who.....Midianites.
 - b. The enemy. The oppressors. Who allowed and/or sent them their way because they were not there before.....God did. Why did He allow this to happen? Because they did evil in God's sight. When I'm doing evil, I ain't thinking about calling on Him or turning to Him. God allows stuff to happen to get us to turn back to Him.
 - c. It was because of the Midianites that they were poor, but they wouldn't have been there had they not been doing evil. That evil and disobedience appears to have been idolatry....putting something or someone as a higher priority than God.
8. When they respond to God, God responds to them. While they are poor, God doesn't send a check for the bills first, doesn't make a banquet for them first, doesn't take them out of debt first. Nope, sends them a prophet, man of God, a messenger with a Word.
 - a. Before you get out of this debt, this mess you put yourself in, before it gets any better, and before God brings you out, He may send a prophet first.
 - b. When a prophet is sent, that's a good sign God is having mercy and about to show favor.
 - c. God will give you a message before He brings you out of this kind of mess that you put yourself through.
 - d. Reminds them or introduces who He is, the one who brought them out the first time. He set them free the first time when they cried out to Him.

- e. You must go to Sinai before you get to Zion.
- 9. I guess He had to remind them because they must have forgotten what He did for them before. We have a tendency to forget. Everyone that stood in their way before, stuff that was in their way before, people that blocked them before, God removed from their path. God wound up taking what the enemy had and giving it to His people. When you are right with God, He sets you up to have more than the enemy working against you.
 - a. Don't be surprised if God blesses you with something that someone else is enjoying right now. God may give it to you. That's what He did for Israel. Somebody is enjoying peace and joy, you're about to get what they got.
- 10. God reminds them again, that He was their God. Has to remind them again....not the first time He has said this. They had heard this before.
 - a. Because He is their God, the one true God, they shouldn't have to worry about what other people are doing and worshipping. When God is your God, you don't have to worry about what folk around you are worshipping.
 - b. Their problem, they didn't obey His voice or His word. Not obeying prevents them from enjoying the promises of God to be free. Some things you can't enjoy until you believe and obey.
 - c. Note: They are at level #1 – recognizing they need God. God tells them of their disobedience so He can move them through level or step #2 – repenting and changing their minds about continuing to make disobedient decisions.
 - d. Should the people have been encouraged even though they were still in misery and broke? Yes they should have because they are communicating with God. Regardless of your right now situation, if you receive a word from God, then that is a reason to have hope.

¹¹ And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

- 11. God sends an Angel to position himself nearby where Gideon was. Gideon = cutter down.
 - a. What he was doing, harvesting wheat near a winepress. Couldn't do it out in the open because he was trying to hide what he had from the enemy. Couldn't do it in the open because he risked the enemy taking it away from him.
 - b. Operating in fear when God promises you don't have to fear.
- 12. Angel shows up to Gideon, tells him God is with him and calls him a Mighty Man of Valor.
 - a. Okay, he's hiding stuff from the enemy. Operating in fear, but God still calls him a mighty man of valor. Sneaking around, but God calls him a mighty man. God must have seen something inside of him or saw his future because his right now didn't look so mighty.

- b. You ought to be happy to know that it might not look like that now, but God sees something in you, that you might not know exists inside of you or is a part of your future.
- c. He wasn't a mighty man yet, but God treated him like he was before it was manifested. Here's one, maybe he was a mighty man already simply because God was with him!
- d. If God is with you, that's all you really need to know. If God is for us, who can be against us.
- e. It must have been important for Gideon to hear and understand what he was and that God was with him. Likewise, today perhaps God also wants us to know that He is with us and that we are mighty when we are connected to Him. Before we step out there, we need to hear this word.

¹³ And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

13. Gideon asks a question that we might still ask today. If God is really with us, why is all this bad stuff happening to us. Where are the miracles that dad told us about back in the day? The fathers knew that God delivered them and Gideon remembered that part, the good part, but he doesn't say anything or recall how they were to stay in the place of promise and miracles, and blessings, by obeying the Lord.
- a. God might be with them, but all he sees is how they are in the hands of the enemy and it seems to Gideon that God has forgotten about them and let them go.
 - b. Be careful, if it seems that God has turned His back on you because of your situation and the troubles you're going through, it might be because of your disobedience...and this is His way to get you back into obedience, right standing, and enter a season of 24x7 miracles again.
 - c. Important note – how did Gideon know about God delivering his people? The fathers told him the story. Likewise today, parents (and I would hope the fathers) should be sharing the story of how God delivered them.
 - d. Another point – when you are going through a tough season, and you discover through the word that God is with you...you can rejoice in your trouble because God may have set an expiration date on your trouble...because He is revealing that He is with you.

¹⁴ And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? ¹⁵ And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

14. He is given an assignment and told to do it based upon his might which is based upon his current level of knowledge. What is it that he had and knew that would allow him to go forth with this assignment?
- a. That God was with him, and that he was a mighty man of valor in God's eyes.
 - b. God doesn't answer him as to why it is happening to them...instead spends time telling him what to do.
 - i. There's a lesson here. Gideon thinks God isn't with them like it's God's fault all this stuff is happening to them. It was really the people's fault that they were in this mess. The fact that He sent them a prophet should have been enough explanation. God doesn't bother to defend himself with Gideon's questions...instead He addresses it by giving him an assignment. Dealing with future. If He is here now and given you an assignment and hope, stop tripping about the past.
 - c. God will give you a word, and all you really need to do to overcome is to work that word that He gave you and that's all you need to get started.
 - i. **If/when God gets a word to you....that is a sure sign that He is concerned and working on your behalf.**
 - d. He gets another word of confirmation...God is the one that is sending him. Sending him to do what?
 - i. To deliver and save Israel from the enemy.
 - ii. Should he expect to be successful? Yes, why? Because God is with him and God sent him and God gave him a word to equip him to defeat the current problem.
 - e. **Go in "this" thy might...meaning perhaps what God had just revealed to him, is the strength he needs to accomplish this task.**
 - f. Application: what God says about me and what He wants to accomplish through me is my strength. I need His word.
15. Gideon's response...How am I going to do something this great? How can I save Israel? My family is broke and I'm the least one in a poor house. In the natural, I would have to agree with Gideon. What he is being asked to do sounded crazy when you look at who he is and what he had and what he had working against him. I would probably ask the same question. With who I am and what I have, and my past mistakes, how can I do anything for the Lord you may ask?
- a. Gideon considers himself unfit for this honor. Yet God still chooses him.

¹⁶ And the LORD said unto him, **Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. ¹⁷ And he said unto him, **If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.** ¹⁸ Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.**

16. The answer to his question....for sure, God will be with you, and you'll defeat the enemy. The problem you're facing right now, the thing that has you down, you will defeat and overcome. God simply repeats the promise He gave him earlier.
- Notice again, God doesn't seem to respond or spend time talking about Gideon's conditions or poor resources. He focuses on the right now and the next steps.
Application: Don't spend too much time on the past and what you can't do; it delays your breakthrough. **See 2 Corinthians 12:9.**
 - As long as God is with you, your hang ups, your past, your inabilities and being broke is not a problem for you completing this assignment.
 - Your background, color, where you were brought up, doesn't matter and doesn't disqualify you from being used of the Lord.
 - Not about who we are...it's about who He is.**
 - In fact, being the least, is usually who God is looking for to do great things. **Being the least often qualifies you for doing great things for God.** God often looks for people like this. **He likes using the broken.**
 - Picked Israel because they were the smallest; picked David who was the youngest and the least. Picked Jacob over Esau, picked Joseph over his brothers.
 - All you need is for God to be with you. That's all you need to know.** God tells him exactly what he needed to know. God being with him would take care of the rest.
 - Is there something that God wants you to set free?
 - Gideon will beat down this gang of Midianites as easy as if he were fighting one dude. It ain't going to be that hard when God is with you.
17. Gideon, asks for a sign. He want to be sure that he is talking with God. This is a reasonable and valid request. **We too need to be sure that we are getting the word from God and His Spirit and not just based on our emotions.** God's word should have been good enough but God honors Gideon's request.
- Before you put that social media post out there, make sure it is coming from the Spirit and not your emotions.
18. While he has doubt, he doesn't want God to leave until he can bless Him with a present.
- God's response....I will hang around until you get back.
 - You want God to hang around...bring Him an offering. He'll hang around until you get back with your praise and worship and sacrifice. How long has God been waiting on us to come back to Him and present ourselves?
 - He didn't have much, and didn't ask his servants to prepare it, he prepared it and brought it himself.
 - Question: Why do you think God wants to wait there and hang around? God loves to fellowship with us. Remember Adam.

¹⁹ And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. ²⁰ And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

19. Prepares a meal and brings it out, presents it to Him. What are you bringing? He was waiting for Gideon to come back with something. A sacrifice....remember, he was poor, so Gideon didn't have much, but he had something he could present to God.
20. Told to take the sacrifice and lay them on a particular rock and pour out the broth. Seems like the waste of a good meal and sacrifice. But he obeys.
 - a. He didn't question what was going to happen to the sacrifice, didn't complain about how it was going to be used. He just did what he was asked to do with the gift he had already volunteered to give. If you are going to bring a gift to the Lord and you know He has it, don't worry about what happens next. That's not your call or concern, your part is to bring it by faith.
21. Angel takes His staff (symbol of authority) and touches the sacrifice on that particular rock and fire came out of the rock. Consumes or accepts the sacrifice.
 - a. Make sure your sacrifice is laid on the right rock or altar, then you don't have to worry about what happens to it.
 - b. We need to find a rock like that. A rock that accepts us as we are; a rock that we can lay everything down on; a rock we can pour ourselves out on; a rock that can fire us up and light up our situation. Where can we find a special rock like that?
 - i. Jesus is a pretty good rock to lay your sacrifice on.
 - ii. Step or level #3 – we place our hope on the Rock.
 - iii. See 1 Corinthians 10:4
 - c. A consuming fire meaning the sacrifice is accepted by God.

²² And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O LORD God! For because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

²³ And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

22. After the sacrifice is accepted, Gideon discerns what he did not understand or know before....he has seen and been in the presence of God. Your sacrifice when accepted should reveal to you

something that you didn't see or have before. Each step in the process as you draw closer to God, more will be revealed.

- a. Had a revealing experience with God, realized he is not worthy and thinks the worst. He knows who he is, knows God is holy, and figures getting this close to someone so awesome and he's so unworthy, he figures he's dead. Tradition taught that if you saw God you would die.
23. **Awesome word, peace to you. God wants us to have peace. God doesn't want us to fear our future. God says we will not die because we see Him or experience Him. Getting closer and experiencing Him means life,** and a better more abundant life and not death. Our objective should be to have closer experiences with God.
- a. Application: Because I have seen and continue to experience Him, I shall live and not die. I have everlasting life....why? Because I have seen and experienced an obedient relationship with God.
24. Builds an altar to memorialize the event and place. Gives the place and altar (place of worship) a name. **God of our peace** (Jehovahshalom). The place is still there. Peace is still there. God wants us to experience His peace. Do we have to wait to die before we experience the God of peace?
- a. Questions: When did Gideon first experience God's peace in this story? Had his outside situation changed yet? Can you have God's peace in the middle of a storm?

²⁵ And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: ²⁶ And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

²⁷ Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

25. God gives Him directions and instructions. Before Gideon begins to actually deliver the people from their physical bondage and situation, God tells him there is some prep work that has to be done first. God deals with the inside first where the root problem is.
- a. Prepare another sacrifice. Something that caused Him to stay around, do it again. Sacrifice and giving is not supposed to be a onetime deal.
 - b. Get rid of the old place of worship. His ministry begins at home!
 - c. Get rid of the idols associated with your false worship. Whatever is next to or connected to the false worship, get rid of that too.
 - d. Before He begins to deliver them from the physical troubles, God outlines the plan for addressing the root cause for their poverty and troubles. They are worshipping the wrong things. It was their spiritual condition that was the cause for God allowing all this

trouble to come upon them so instead of dealing with the symptoms (the enemies), He begins addressing the real problem....the thing that started all of this mess.....their disobedience and idol worship.

e. **Application: You can recognize your need for God and cry out to Him and still be holding onto the stuff and things that got you in trouble in the first place.**

f. You better deal with the thing that displeased God before trying to please yourself.

g. Make peace with God before you make war with your enemies.

26. Replacement theory in action. Don't just take down the old altar, set up a new altar. Worship the Lord instead. Not in the old place, but in a new place where you saw the miracle on the rock. Where God showed up before, set the altar there on this rock. Set in order.

a. Use the wood that used to be the place and house for false worship, use that wood as kindling for your new sacrifice.....not only cut it down, burn it up too as part of the sacrifice.

27. Took 10 men with him and obeyed.

a. Couldn't do it during the day, had to do it at night when nobody could see him or know about it.

b. Some folk, even in your own household/family, don't need to know what you are doing for the Lord just yet.

²⁸ And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

²⁹ And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. ³⁰ Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.

³¹ And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? Will ye save him? He that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.

³² Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

³³ Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

28. When they got up, what they used to worship was gone.

a. Altar of Baal. Canaanite god.

- b. Second bullock sacrificed on the new altar. They could see the results of what he did at night during the day. There was a difference.
29. Asked who did it? Then wanted to kill Gideon. Why?
- a. Because he broke up the altar, and changed the worship. Messed with the order of service.
 - b. Because the thing that was next to the false worship and idol, he took that out too. Everything that was connected to it that was standing, he cut it down.
 - c. What is God demonstrating when He instructs Gideon to not stop at just taking down the altar...but also take down things around or associated with it? Is there an application in our walk and worship? I believe there is.
30. So now after somebody told on him, they want to kill him.
- a. When you change the order of worship, when you change what people have been used to, when you challenge false worship, not everybody is going to be happy in the morning.
 - b. He stops them from being able to do the crazy stuff they normally did and that made them mad. So don't be surprised.
31. Joash's argument....so you're doing this, asking for vengeance for your god Baal. If Baal is really god, he ought to be able to defend himself and get his own revenge if someone has cast down his altar. Why are you going to put to death, one who appears stronger than the god you serve?
- a. If God is truly God, He can handle himself.
 - b. **Some arguments you don't need to be engaged in, God can defend Himself** because He is real. He knows how to convict a fool.
32. Jerubbaal = let Baal contend, let a god fight his own battles or the enemy of Baal. Gideon gets a new name. Joash = given by the Lord. People refer to him new and differently because of what he did. Your actions can cause others around you to see you differently and call you something different than what you were called yesterday. Means antagonist of Baal.
33. Enemy was mad and was setting up against them to attack.
- a. Enemy didn't attack before, just hanging around and stealing stuff.
 - b. After a spiritual move, expect a carnal move from the enemy. Taken another way, your spiritual breakthrough will prepare you for when the enemy comes in like a flood.
 - c. Jezreel = God sows.
- ³⁴ **But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.** ³⁵ **And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.**
- ³⁶ **And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,**
³⁷ **Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.**

³⁸ And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

³⁹ And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. ⁴⁰ And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

34. But....key word here. The enemy was approaching, things looked bad, they were about to face the enemies wrath in verse 33, but there's a "but" in the next verse which means it may look bad right now, but there's more to the story, game not over, don't leave the stadium just yet, this thing is just about to get good. **The Spirit of God can put some "but's" in your right now and bleak situation.**

- a. Spirit falls on Gideon, had conversation and a word and promise before, but after this, after the initial word and worship, he gets the Spirit.
 - b. After the Spirit falls on him, he blows a trumpet....sounds an alarm, calls for an assembly or gathering. Unless you know the Spirit is in the announcement, in the event, and in the person, you probably don't need to be assembling. But if the Spirit is in it, you better show up.
 - c. **Key Feast Point:** Gideon, after moving through the first three levels is now at level 4-5. Notice, the Spirit is upon him which represents step #4 or Pentecost; the Spirit leads him to blow a trumpet to assemble the people of God – this is a reference to step #5 or the Feast of Trumpets (the Rapture).
 - i. **Application:** do not take steps to engage the enemy or deal with others (step #5) before you are led by the Spirit (step #4) – follow the plan.
- 35.** Sent messengers to others for them to gather as well. When the enemy gathers together against you, you should be gathering others together for battle to meet the enemy. Didn't call Gideon to take on this battle by himself.
- a. God still using messengers to spread the word and gather people together to defeat the enemy.
- 36.** Gideon has a slight problem here. Even though he has had church, received a word and a promise, changed his worship, was saved from death, got the people behind him (a miracle) and has the Spirit....**he still has some doubt and fear.**
- a. While his faith is lacking, **he does do several good things** here perhaps.
 - b. He knows who to go to in addressing his concerns....**goes to God.** Be careful who you turn to in difficult situations when your faith is not strong.
 - c. He remembers the word of promise and brings it up again. **Speaks it.**
- 37.** He needs another token just to make sure. Important point here. His problem was not in a lack of desire to do the right thing or step into the will of God. He had positioned himself, called the

people together for the purpose of executing the plan of God and stepping into the promise. So his problem was not a lack of desire to do the right thing and that's important.

- a. Why? Because people are putting out fleeces today but they haven't positioned themselves to do God's will and don't have that desire....their fleece is being set up to try and get out of a thing rather than step into a thing; to do their own thing and have their will and way validated and blessed rather than truly preparing for and seeking the will and backing of God in executing His plan. What's the motive behind the method? Ex. My fleece with Vanessa.
 - b. He knew what God had said....just having trouble believing God was still going to use him to do it. Lack of faith, knew what God said but asks for some help and confirmation to help him believe it so he could walk in the promises. We are still like that today.
 - c. Here also I think is an example of faith in his lack of faith....he didn't ask God to do something we would consider easy or likely. He asked for something that only God Himself could do. This is important because it validates the test.
38. Miracle happens. God answers his request. Notice, Gideon had to put the fleece out. Something that he had to do.
- a. Bowl of water was full. The dew filled the bowl.
39. Wants further confirmation or a second witness. Not a bad idea. Uses the same testing elements that he used before. Fleece. Reverse the order or results to make sure it wasn't just a coincidence.
40. God honors the request again.
- a. While it demonstrates a lack of faith on Gideon's part, God still honors his request so God must really want to help us to believe and trust Him.
 - b. Some commentaries indicate -- the nature of Gideon's request reveals not only that God really does want to use him, but that God will pour His Spirit out in measure upon anyone He desires to have it.
 - i. Dew representing a pouring out of grace, mercy, and goodness. Implies fullness and gentleness, important for increase.
 - c. This should not be a recommended thing, because he had all the confirmation he really needed.

Thoughts:

- Gideon is in the faith hall of fame (Hebrews 11), how does he get there when he relies on the fleece?
- Several commentaries are critical of the fleece method since God had provided already what he needed. This is true, but I see a benefit in the approach.
 - The fleece method keeps him connected and talking to God.
 - Helps him through any unbelief.
 - Lets us know as believers it is not how you start, but how you finish. One time faith is not the same as faithfulness.



- Helps him to ensure he stays connected and reliant on God and not his own strength.
- Keeps him qualified for the Faith Hall of Fame.
- I see this as a Feast level 6 event. It lines up with the portion of the Lord's Prayer, "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."