

Sun Morning

COURAGEOUS FAITH

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | APRIL 21, 2024

Text: Judges 6:1-13

"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. 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. 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. 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. 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." (Judges 6:1-13)

= See also Judges 7:1-7

INTRODUCTION

- Midian & Amalakitite raiders roam at will over all Israel
 - * no resistance given by Israel
 - * raiders go as far south as Gaza of the Philistines
- Book of Judges show cycle of sin, punishment, repentance, & deliverance
- Faith is knowledge and trust combined
- Fear is a prison
- Midianite army had ~~120,000~~ 135,000 men (Judges 8-10)
 - * Step 1: 22,000 men went home
 - * Step 2: only 300 men remaining for God's army
- People do what people see

1. THE Paralysis OF FEAR (v. 3-6) - living in fear

- A. Leads to isolation - Gideon man in hiding
- "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." (Judges 6:22-23)*
- B. Leads to discouragement - no courage

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

GIDEON QUESTIONED GOD'S POWER

"Lord, where are thy former lovingkindnesses, which thou swarest unto David in thy truth?" (Psalm 89:49)

GIDEON QUESTIONED GOD'S PRESENCE

- Where is God?

2. THE Proving OF FAITH

A. Faith Is Growth in obedience

no false
gods

• obey God's
commands

"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." (Judges 6:25-27)

Quote: "Faith is listening to what God says in His Word and acting on it."

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

Quote: "I prayed for faith and it did not come, but when I read the Word of God then faith came." —D.L. Moody

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

B. Faith Is Not self Confident

THE FEARFUL WERE RELEASED FROM DUTY

22,000 men
went home

"And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. 3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand." (Judges 7:2-3)

THE NEGLIGENT WERE RELEASED FROM DUTY

"So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. 6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men; but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water." (Judges 7:5-6)

only 300
men in
Gideon's
army

"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." (Hebrews 11:32-34)

C. Faith Is God's Confident

GOD SAW GIDEON'S POTENTIAL

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

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

GOD BLESSED GIDEON'S FAITH

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

3. THE PROVISION FOR THE FAITHFUL

A. The Provision of wisdom

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." (Isaiah 55:8)

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

GIDEON SET THE EXAMPLE

3 groups
of 100 men
each

each man's
weapons
- trumpet
- lamp
inside jar

- no armor
- no sword

"And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian."

16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. 17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. 18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon." (Judges 7:15-18)

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

THE MEN STOOD IN THEIR PLACE

"As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place." (Proverbs 27:8)

ALL TRUSTED GOD'S WORD

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

Quote: "Today's ordinary citizen is living off the stored up moral capital of another centuries experience."

