

GIDEON – THE JUDGE WHO NEEDED SIGNS – PART 2

--JUDGES 6:11-32--

INTRODUCTION:

We began a new chapter in Judges last week, it is in this chapter that we are introduced to the fifth judge raised up by God to deliver Israel. This chapter opens by giving us a review of the condition of Israel, her new oppressors and God's formal accusation against Israel. Israel did what was evil in the eyes of the LORD and turned once more to the gods of the Canaanites. The LORD gave the sons of Israel into the hands of the Midianites and after 40 years of rest the Midianites plundered Israel year after year for seven years. After seven years Israel cried to the LORD not in repentance, but for relief from this yearly plundering of their land. God sent them a prophet who brought the word of the LORD to the people, God's word was a formal accusation against the sons of Israel that they had failed to listen to the voice of the LORD. The implication in this indictment is that because of their unfaithfulness they have given up and lost all right to deliverance. This is what the prophet leaves them with and in view of this, just what God is going to do or not do next is unclear. This morning we will see what it is that God is going to do, and it will begin with making a young man into the leader and judge that God needs to deliver His people whom He loves.

I. GIDEON'S CALL (Judges 6:11-24)

- a. Verse 11 begins with the appearance of the _____ of the Lord.
- b. Throughout this passage He is referred to as the _____ of the LORD, the Angel of God, and the LORD giving us a better understanding of who this is that appears here.
- c. When the Angel of Yahweh appears He is _____ under an oak tree that was in the vicinity of the town of Ophrah in the territory of Manasseh.
- d. This day for _____ was just like any other day in the last seven years, everything had to be done in secret so as not to call attention to yourself.

- e. The Angel of Yahweh's _____ to Gideon is of great significance.
- f. This appearance of the Angel of Yahweh is much like when Yahweh appeared to _____ in the burning bush.
- g. Gideon goes and prepares a _____ for the visitor and the visitor patiently waits as it is prepared.
- h. Then suddenly somehow Gideon hears Yahweh whom he fears, who is still in some way present even though the Angel of Yahweh has _____.

II. GIDEON'S STAND (Judges 6:25-27)

- a. Gideon has experienced something that shaped his life forever and then the awful _____ of what God had commanded him to do was brought to bear that very same night.
- b. Israel's root problem was not the Midianites, their root problem was their doing _____ in the sight of the LORD and that was seen particularly in their worship of Baal.
- c. The LORD had told Gideon not to _____, that he would not die and that had calmed Gideon's fears and brought him peace at that moment.

III. GIDEON'S FATE (Judges 6:28-32)

- a. In the morning, the men of the city come to _____ Baal and discover that Baal's altar is gone and a new altar to Yahweh is in its place.
- b. This could have gone either way, but Joash uses his authority as the priest of Baal or at least the one who had charge over his _____ to speak as a head man in his town.
- c. So, the man who was as good as dead when he awoke that morning has suddenly been reborn as "Jerubbaal" or "the man who _____ against Baal and _____!"

CONCLUSION:

In this passage we learn some things about ourselves and about God:

First, when Gideon realized that he had just had an encounter with

God he was immediately aware of his sin, and he was also conscious of that fact that God also had seen him in his fallenness. Because of this he feared the death that sinners should die before a holy God. We should each recognize this truth, we do not deserve anything from God but to die in our sin, we are each guilty before God and should be condemned to die. God graciously promised life to Gideon instead of death and peace instead of wrath. God has also poured out His grace and mercy on us and offered us life instead of death and peace instead of wrath. When we repent of our sin and place our faith in the forgiveness that is available to us through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are given eternal life and we have peace with God. Paul explained it this way in Romans 5:1-2, *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.”* (Romans 5:1–2, NASB95)

Second, each of us at some time in our life will have to make a stand for God. That stand may cost us family and friends, but God will show Himself faithful. Just as Gideon’s stand could have brought about his death, instead it changed his whole community, God proved Himself faithful to Gideon for his obedience. Your obedience may not change a whole community, but it may change one life and it will bring glory to God and God will faithfully bring you through whatever circumstances you will face due to your stand, and He will be your peace.