GIDEON – THE JUDGE WHO NEEDED SIGNS – PART 1

--JUDGES 6:1-24--

INTRODUCTION:

So far in our study of Judges, we have so far looked at four judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar and Barak. As we move into chapter six, we will meet our fifth judge raised up by God to deliver God’s people from their oppressors. God will raise up a young man by the name of Gideon to be judge in Israel. We will see LORD with great patience and perseverance and with many assurances make Gideon into the godly leader and hero that is needed to deliver God’s people. Before we are introduced to Gideon we will look first at the particular condition of sin and death that were Gideon’s world, after this introduction and an indictment by God against Israel we will be introduced to Gideon.

1. ISRAEL IN GIDEON’S DAY (Judges 6:1-6)
   1. This next section of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ begins in much the same way the history of Ehud and Barak began.
   2. There are a couple of differences that provide us with some valuable information for understanding the context of the time in which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grew up.
   3. First, we must remember that this chapter opens on the heels of chapter 5, the great victory \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Deborah. (Judges 5:31)
   4. Second, there is a missing word in Judges 6:1 that is present in both the Ehud and Barak histories, the word is “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” (Judges 3:12; 4:1)
   5. The pull of the Canaanite religion was too strong and Israel’s resistance to it was already too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because of the lapse in earlier generations.
   6. This time God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the sons of Israel into the hands of the Midianites.
   7. This oppression was different than the previous ones, the enemy did not want to conquer and occupy the land of Israel, they only wanted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it yearly.
2. ISRAEL’S INDICTMENT (Judges 6:7-10)
   1. The sons of Israel cried out to the LORD hoping for some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from this yearly plundering of their crops and livestock.
   2. God does not immediately send them a deliverer, but He does send them a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   3. This prophet does not bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ news, instead he brings the LORD’s indictment against Israel.
   4. Then God’s prophet reminded them again what the LORD had said to them, “*I am the LORD your God, you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Me.*” (Judges 6:10b, NASB95) (Judges 2:18)

CONCLUSION:

Next week we will pick up in verse 11 and we will meet Gideon in a very unusual place doing an unusual task for where he is. Was all this background in verses 1-10 necessary? God thought it was because He is the One who inspired the author to write it. It was important for us to see how quickly people can turn from following the true God to following after something else, thinking that something else will give them more satisfaction, and joy, and peace than they would find following God. They had enjoyed 40 years of rest under the care of Deborah and Barak, and that rest could have continued if they had stayed true to their God and the covenant that He had made with them. The sons of Israel could have changed the whole history of the nation of Israel if they had remembered God’s faithfulness to them, if they would have listened to His voice, if they had feared Him and worshiped the LORD their God only.

Before we come down too hard on the sons of Israel, we must first examine our own hearts. Is there ever an occasion in your life when you have failed to remember God’s faithfulness to you? Are there occasions in your life when you do not want to listen to God’s voice? Like when He tells us to obey our governing authorities and we are tired of wearing masks, we are tired of all the restrictions imposed on us. Or maybe we do not want to listen because the easier thing to do would be to go our own way. Listening to and obeying God’s voice

might mean we have to do something that is not easy or that makes us uncomfortable. I am not just talking to you; I am talking to my own self as well. Are there times in our lives that we try to ignore the Lord and our fear of Him fades and we become comfortable doing our own thing, deciding our own destiny. That sounds a lot like what Adam and Eve did, they rebelled against their Creator and Provider in hopes of becoming like Him. They stopped fearing Him. Let’s not be too harsh on the sons of Israel until we examine the motives of our own hearts.