

GIDEON by Lucinda Davidoff June 26, 2022

Judges 6:1 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. **2** Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. **3** Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. **4** They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. **5** They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. **6** Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

Gideon lived in a time where the Midianites totally impoverished the Israelites. They totally stole the seed that was planted, their animals and produce so that they were not able to reap a harvest.

John 10:10 The thief has come to steal, kill and destroy- what does the enemy steal? The seed of the word – cause if he can steal the seed there will be no faith! And without faith there will be no harvest.

How Gideon sees himself and How God sees him

The spirit of the midianites is to question your worth and your ability to do anything significant.

Judges 6:12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "**The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.**" "

Judges 6:15 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.

This may be the way you see yourself poor, wretched, sinner, worthless or insignificant BUT God sees you as a MIGHTY WARRIOR.

Gideon was seeking and yearning for the supernatural

Judges 6:13 But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? **Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?'**

14 The LORD turned to him and said, **"Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"**

The Lord hears Gideons sincere questioning and assures him- you are going to see it...you're going to be a part of that salvation that you are yearning for! Go in strength.

Gideon **brings an offering** to God and **encounters the fire of God**- your offering will indicate where your heart is at

Judges 6:16 The LORD answered, **"I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."**

17 Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me.

19 Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

20 The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. **21** Then the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. **Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread.** And the angel of the LORD disappeared. **22** When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! **I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!**"

23 But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."

24 So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

What offering are you bringing tonight? Your best? An open heart?

Or have you kind of just come to see what's up? God wants your life as an offering on the altar.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The altars must come down -It's a process- Before the mission can be accomplished

Judges 6:25 That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. **26** Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering."

It's not in the numbers- it's by the spirit

Judges 7:1 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. **2** The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' **3** Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles

with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

4 But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” **6** Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

7 The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” **8** So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. **9** During that night the LORD said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. **10** If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah **11** and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. **12** The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

13 Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”

14 His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.”

15 When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “**Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.**”

Trumpets and Jars with torches inside

16 Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, **he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.**

17 “Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. **18** When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’”

19 Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. **20** The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!” **21** While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. **23** Israelites from Naphtali, Asher and all Manasseh were called out, and they pursued the Midianites.

-Break the Jar- The Jar is our vessel- we have earthen vessels – the flesh- that needs to be set aside, broken, we need to die so that the fire of the Holy Spirit is revealed

-The torch in their hands- is the Holy Fire of God that burns within us and consumes the enemy! It confuses the enemy! It gets the enemy out of your camp!
The all consuming fire

-The trumpet has got to do with purpose – to sound the alarm, to preach the gospel , to go to the enemy’s camp and read them their rights, and serve them their eviction notice. Blow the trumpet in Zion Zion! Sound the alarm in my Holy mountain!! Sound the alarm

-And then they needed to **use their voices to shout.** **“The sword of the Lord and the sword of Gideon”** Gods sword in God's hand is the same as Gods sword in your hand

God's word is IN God's mouth is the same as God's word in Your mouth- the enemy shudders and flees.

Pursue the enemy until they are ALL defeated

Judges 8:4 Gideon and his three hundred men, exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit, came to the Jordan and crossed it. **5** He said to the men of Sukkoth, "Give my troops some bread; they are worn out, and I am still pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

6 But the officials of Sukkoth said, "Do you already have the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? Why should we give bread to your troops?"

7 Then Gideon replied, "Just for that, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will tear your flesh with desert thorns and briers."

10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with a force of about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of the armies of the eastern peoples; a hundred and twenty thousand swordsmen had fallen. **11** Gideon went up by the route of the nomads east of Nobah and Jogbehah and attacked the unsuspecting army. **12** Zebah and Zalmunna, the two kings of Midian, fled, but he pursued them and captured them, routing their entire army.