

Intro: I vividly remember the very first day I was a PAID “Pastor”!!! Glendale Community Church, Jacksonville Florida
Moved all my things into my office, set up my library, checked out my desk, made sure I had all the supplies I needed.

Then I promptly did 2 things:

1. Leaned back in my chair, put my feet on the desk and felt this amazing sense of “This is right for me!”
2. Thought about it for a minute, was struck with sheer terror, “*realized I had NO idea what I was supposed to do*”
I KNEW I was called by God, I KNEW I was to serve and lead people...but I also KNEW...I wasn’t up to job!

That is where Gideon is in Judges 6-7. Page 174

*Gideon is called by God to deliver the Nation of Israel, and Gideon is afraid! Ch 6:11-15
Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you! Vs 14*

1. BACKGROUND OF GIDEON:

- **Gideon was a Judge:** Defined
The men and women that led Israel AFTER Moses and Joshua, but BEFORE the OT Kings. They were commissioned by God to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of their enemies, usually by war, and then to rule the people during the time of peace and prosperity that followed. (12 in the book, perhaps more)
- Gideon’s life and ministry followed the typical pattern of all the Judges. (Number 5 of 12)
Cycle in Judges: *Rest; Rebellion; Retribution; Repentance; Restoration*

Applic: Why is it important for us to understand the history and background of Gideon’s life?

These things (OT Events) happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 1Co 10:11

- **Negative pattern of sin at work in our lives**
~True pattern of what happens in our lives individually!!!
How many times have YOU walked that road?
We should learn from what has gone before us...so we don’t continue to fall into the same spiritual traps.
- **Positive pattern of Obedience:** Gideon not included because of his lack of faith, but because of his obedience!

2. When we meet Gideon, GIDEON IS AFRAID...OF EVERYTHING!

*Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you! Vs 14
When you look at the fears that Gideon had, they are no different from the kinds of things WE are afraid of today.*

- **Vs 11: Afraid of the ENEMY: Midianites: ENEMY (Threshing wheat in winepress) One of the enemy countries**
We fear enemies as well: People, Spiritual Opposition, Circumstantial Opposition, Culture
- **Vs 13: Afraid he/they have lost the PRESENCE of God: Afraid God is not WITH him (Israel) any longer**
*“If He is with us, why has all this happened?”
“But now the Lord has abandoned us!” Lit = “to push away; to cast off and let fall”
We are afraid that God has finally given up on us because of our Sin!*
- **Vs 14-15: Afraid God’s POWER wouldn’t be with him, wouldn’t be enough**
Weakest: Family; Clan; Tribe
*“Go in the strength you have!” “I will be with you!”
We are afraid we don’t have the spiritual strength to follow through on what God calls us to.*
- **Vs 16: Afraid of God’s CALL in his life: Gideon knew what God was calling him to...He just was afraid of it!**
*“I will be with you and you will strike down all the Midianites.
We are afraid we aren’t up to the task, the call, the opportunity that is in front of us.*
- **Vs 17 – 24 Afraid He wasn’t HEARING God correctly! “Let me make offering,... and then Realized it was the Lord”**
Realized: Lit = to perceive; understand; to discern the reality of something
We are afraid we didn’t hear God right...Or we heard the pizza from last night, our own desires, others agenda
- **Vs 25-32 He was Afraid of what others will think and do**
Vs 27 He destroyed false altar of Baal at night because he was afraid of his family and men of town.
We are no different...Just Like Gideon we sometimes don’t speak up...don’t take a stand because others
- **Vs 33-40 Afraid he couldn’t finish what he had started!**
*Blew trumpet to assemble army. Then Got cold feet! Needed two different signs to go to war!
Ever been there? I so remember the day we were building one of the buildings...not going well...
Darlene, always my rock, always my supporter, always on my side...Came home exhausted*

