

## Key to Understanding THE JUDGES:

Judges 2:2 "And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?"

Judges 2: 10-11 "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Balaam:"



Ron Singletery The Judges-part 5 Adult Bible Study  
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## The Judges-part5

### Judges Chapters 6,7,8

Judges 6:11-15 "...The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour..."

### Gideon

We begin with an angel of the Lord (probably Jesus pre-incarnate) coming to seek out a man hiding while threshing wheat to feed his family.

But don't be fooled by his crouching posture and timid look: God knew what could be done at the hand of this servant with a self-confidence problem.

**God delights to use timid and insecure people to accomplish great things.**

To appreciate this man Gideon and his faith, read Judges Chapters 6, 7, & 8.

Consider Gideon. Do not miss anything God has recorded concerning this Judge.

### Gideon Boldly Asked:

He had heard of the great miracles of the past and asked what had happened. "God, if you could do it then, why not now?" *Judges 6:13*

Indeed, why not now? Is the question we need to ask ourselves today.

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16*

We are told to come boldly before the Throne of Grace, but never to be disrespectful.

Remember, you need to understand HIS will before going boldly to Him with our "demands". Reverence for His Will is still paramount. Studying the Word and humble prayer will lead you to come boldly to Him.

### Gideon Brought an Offering:

He wanted to show proper respect for the Lord. *Judges 6: 18-24*

Before any battle; take time to Worship.

### Compare Gideon 6<sup>th</sup> Judge to Samson 13<sup>th</sup> Judge.

- Gideon's total Dependence upon God
- Samson's Pride
- Gideon's Complete Victory that glorified God, not himself
- Samson's Victorious End comes only after a lifetime of self-indulgence brings him to his place of humility.

## **Gideon Busted Down the Altar of Baal:**

*Judges 6: 25-32* He took a public stand. When everyone saw he meant business for God with no fence straddling then they took him seriously and were willing to follow him even if it meant death. 32,000 men went ready to fight!

## **Gideon Bartered with a Fleece:**

Gideon knew he had no power to deliver Israel from the enemy. He asked the Lord to show him a few small miracles to prove that God was really going to provide a victory. *Judges 6: 36-40*

We should never demand a miracle from God for a sign, but if God has a tough task for you, then He usually feeds your faith with some small encouragements before the big leap of faith is required.

## **Gideon Believed a Biscuit:**

*Judges Chapter 7* Gideon and his men, now only 300, were fearful (wouldn't you be?). How can God whip over 130,000 Midianites with only 300 poorly armed, untrained men?

**Don't ever feel like a failure because your faith wavers at times.** *God is about to do something really big with an insecure man that is currently doubting the power of God!*

It is interesting that God could have sent great signs and wonders but instead He told Gideon to sneak into the Midian camp and just listen. Then God encourages Gideon with a Midianite soldier telling a dream about a biscuit.

### ***Trail Tips:***

*God delights to use timid and insecure people to accomplish great things.*

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*God can still work with your "small faith" & "doubts" when His Power is all you need in the first place.*

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*Any time you are doing the work of God, no matter how obvious that it is God's will, you will have some that criticize and try to make you feel that YOU are the one that did something wrong.*

## **Following Gideon's Victory:**

*Judges 8: 1* Following the victory it is obvious that Gideon was doing the will of God and not going after his own glory. But Ephraim shows up after the work has been done and the risks are now over.

Ephraim has been delivered just as all the others in the region but they felt that they were left out of the glory and possibly the spoils of the war. They come to criticize and complain about the way Gideon handled matters.

Remember that any time you are doing the work of God, no matter how obvious it is that it is God's will, you will have some that criticize and try to make you feel that YOU are the one that did something wrong.

Following Gideon we see a tragic episode where one of Gideon's sons, Abimelech, takes power by force and leads Israel astray.