Judges 6 The Call of Gideon

“God is our refuge and strength…” Psalm 46:1

Main Teaching Points

* Gideon’s people experienced problems because they had turned away from the LORD.
* God called Gideon to tear down his father’s idol (idols are things we trust in more than God).
* Gideon was to trust God; God gives His power to those He calls to work for Him.

The people called Israel were God’s people. The people of Israel had been freed from slavery by God. God had given them a special land and very special promises. For a while the people of Israel trusted and obeyed God. But then the Bible tells us that something happened.

(Read from Judges 6:1) “Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and the LORD gave them into the hands of their enemies for seven years.”

When people say, “No, God; we will not listen to You, we will not obey You!” God let’s them have their way for a while. Boys and girls, all that is good is with God. When a person or a nation says, “No, God.” And turns away from God, they turn away from all that is good! God is a shield and protection for His people. God is all that is good for His people. God is all-powerful over His enemies. So, when we turn away from God, there is nothing but trouble left. That is what the people of Israel found out, turning away from God brought them trouble!

The trouble came from their enemies called the Midianites. These Midianites would wait until Israel had planted all of their fields and it was time for harvest. There were no grocery stores! No, people grew their own food and stored it up so they would have something to eat. Well, right when it was time to harvest their food and store it up, the Midianites would come in and steal all of their food! There were so many Midianites that would sweep in and steal all of the food, they looked like a bunch of locusts! And then all the food would be gone and the Israelites would cry because they were so hungry! But they did not pray. They did not ask God for help. No, instead the Israelites did something very foolish. They turned to idols! Idols are not like God. But that’s what the foolish Israelites did. They tried to act like the enemies of God instead of trusting God. They built big tall poles and altars to ask the pretend gods to help them. For seven years the people of Israel had big problems because they stopped trusting God.

Finally, some of the Israelites cried out to the Lord God! As soon as they turned back to God, God was ready to forgive them! That is called God’s mercy. God sent a prophet, a person to speak God’s words, to the people. The prophet said, “Remember God! Remember all that God has done for you in the past. Remember God’s ways. Remember what God has told you and obey God!”

And then it happened that a man named Gideon was hiding out in a little hut-type thing and he had a little bit of grain that had not been stolen by the enemies. As Gideon was working on that wheat, suddenly the angel of the LORD appeared and said, “The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior!”

Now Gideon did not look like a valiant warrior hiding in that little room. Gideon did not feel like a valiant warrior either. Gideon was scared and hungry, not strong and courageous!

Gideon said to the angel of the LORD, “If the LORD is with us, why has all of this bad stuff happened?

But the angel of the LORD just answered him, “Go in this strength: I am sending you to deliver Israel from the Midian enemies.”

Gideon answered, “But how can I do that? My family is the least and I am the youngest. I am too weak.”

But the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you and you shall defeat Midian!”

Gideon offered the angel of the LORD a sacrifice, he wanted to be sure! Well, when Gideon put his sacrifice on the altar, the LORD touched it with a staff (a long cane or stick) and PUUFFF! Fire sprang up from the rock and it was all gone! And the Angel of the LORD vanished from Gideon’s sight too!

Now Gideon was really scared! “Oh no! I have seen GOD! I will surely die!”

But God’s voice said, “Peace, don’t fear, you won’t die!”

And then God told Gideon to do something important. The idols must go! And it had to start with Gideon’s own family. Gideon’s father had a big idol for Baal and Asherah—two pretend gods. Those idols had to be torn down. God told Gideon to take them down right away!

Gideon obeyed God and tore them down and burned them up. But this brought problems! The people got really mad that Gideon tore down the idols! But Gideon’s father said to the men who wanted to kill Gideon, “If Baal is a real god, let him defend himself. If Baal is real, he can take care of himself.”

Well, Baal is not a real god and nothing happened to Gideon! Gideon had trusted and obeyed the REAL God! The REAL God is the strongest strong-One and no one can win against Him! Gideon now became very courageous! Gideon’s strength came from trusting God. God was Gideon’s strength and protection.

Gideon trusted God and God gives His power to those He calls to work for Him; for those who trust Him.

Q & A

Who has all that is good?

When the people of Israel turned away from God what did they get? Good stuff or trouble?

What were the people of Israel trusting in instead of God?

What happened to them?

Was Gideon strong on his own or was he afraid?

What was Gideon doing when God came to him?

What did God call Gideon right away…a weak boy or a valiant warrior?

Who’s strength was going to make Gideon a strong, valiant warrior…his own or God’s?

Gideon trusted God and tore down his father’s idols? What did the other people think about that? What did they try to do to Gideon?

Who protected Gideon? (his father and God)

Who’s strength is the strongest?

Who are we to trust and obey?

SAMPLE INFANT STORY

The people of Israel had forgotten God. Without God the people had many problems and enemies.

God came to Gideon. God told Gideon to trust only God.

God showed Gideon His mighty power. Gideon trusted God.

God used Gideon to help God’s people trust God again.

God gives His power to those He asks to work for Him.

SONGS:

Trust and Obey

God is so Good

Read your Bible, Pray Every day