

Judges Study #4: Judges 6
Gideon's Call and Commission

Intro: When you face troubles do you see them as problems which need removing or possible ways for God to change you and grow you?

Gideon is portrayed as fearful and diffident, obedient but doubting. He is the fourth major judge as well as the leading judge in the second wave of narratives (Gideon, Jephthah, Samson).

Read Judges 6:1-10

Question #1: Israel responds to Midian's oppression in two ways. First, they hide in mountain caves and holes dug out of the ground (6:2), but this approach just makes Midian's oppression of Israel worse. Their second approach is much better. The people of Israel finally cry out to the Lord for help (6:6). God's first response to the people's cry is not to send a savior or salvation, but to give them a sermon. Why does God do this? Why would He need to do this?

Question #2: Is there an area of your life where you are crying out for salvation, but God is prompting you to listen to a sermon first?

Read Judges 6:11-16

Question #3: The angel of the Lord commissions Gideon to save Israel from the hand of Midian (6:14) before Israel repents. Why would God do that? What does that tell us about Him?

Question #4: Gideon objects to the commissioning by confessing his own personal weakness and inability. Is his assessment of himself correct?

Read Judges 6:17-40

Question #5: Gideon is first called to eradicate the idols in the household of his father, and he clearly obeys this command of the Lord (6:27). The text is also clear that Gideon is "afraid" to obey such a command, given the danger of the situation. Fear and faith are not at odds, however. Gideon obeys in fear and by faith. When have you been truly afraid to obey the word of the Lord because you knew that it would have difficult or negative consequences in your life?

Question #6: Having first destroyed the idols in the household of his father, Gideon is now called to destroy the Midianites from the land. After summoning warriors from the tribes of Israel (6:34–35), Gideon asks for a public sign from the Lord. If Gideon already knows the will of God, why does he ask the Lord to perform these fleece signs? See Exodus 4:1-8.

Application:

Are there parts of your life where you need to ask God to point you to His Son so that you can trust more fully in His promises?