

Becoming the Person God Sees - Judges Pt 6

Gideon is a story where God takes a man full of fear and raises him up to defeat an army of 135,000 w/ 300

Jdg 6:1 The people of Israel did **what was evil** in the sight of the LORD (7 yrs Midianites stole food, starvation)

- Vs 6 ... And the people of Israel **cried out for help to the LORD**.

A cry for the LORD's help → Opens the Door to His Involvement → leads to Mercy & Accountability

- **GOD IS MERCIFUL** → 7 **When** the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, 8 **the LORD sent a prophet**
- **MAN ACCOUNTABILITY** → 10 And I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.' **But you have not obeyed my voice.**"

Why Accountability → a starting point for change -- **you'll never see what God sees if blame shifting**

- **Jump ahead to vs 13** And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, **if the LORD** is with us, **why then** has all this happened to us? And **where are** all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' **But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us** into the hand of Midian."

GOD reveals to Gideon how HE sees him → **seemed to be in direct contrast to what was happening**

- 11-14 **Now the angel of the LORD** came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son **Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it** from the Midianites. **SLIDE** 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "**The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.**"....(13 was read above)....14 And the LORD turned to him and said, "**Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?**"

MAN Gideon reveals to God how he sees himself → **Can You Recognize this?** "BUT I AM WITH YOU"

- 15 And he said to him, "Please, Lord, **how can I save Israel?** Behold, **my clan is the weakest** in Manasseh, and **I am the least in my father's house.**" 16 And the LORD said to him, "**But I will be with you**, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."

Gideon tests the LORD - FEAR (if I have found favor v17) **God deals w/obstacles & the building of altars**

- 17 & 23-24 And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me...(brought food, fire rock, I have seen face to face)...But the LORD said to him, "**Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.**" 24 Then Gideon **built an altar** there to the LORD and called it, **The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands** at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

The LORD tests Gideon -- to deal with fear (its a hard step...Gideon takes baby step...celebrate swings)

- 25-27 That night the LORD said to him, "Take your **father's bull, and the second bull** seven years old, and pull down **the altar of Baal that your father has**, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it 26 and build an altar to the LORD your God **on the top of the stronghold here**, with stones laid in due order. **SLIDE** Then take the **second bull and offer it as a burnt offering** with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down." 27 So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had told him. (almost parenthetically) **But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.**

28-32 Gideon's name was called Jerubbaal- "**Let Baal contend against him,**" - a new identity

A first step on the journey taking a man hiding in a winepress, to leading the way - fearful & faithful

33-35 The **Spirit of the LORD** clothed w/ Power - **people are responding - new identity** the ram's horn

36-40 The **fleece**: God continues to help us overcome obstacles **to become who He sees us to be**

NEXT STEP? Who determines my identity...What I or others think? Satan says? (*Jesus-if you are*) or God?