

Sermon Title: Glass Houses (The God Who Calls & Life at The Crossroads)

Scripture: Judges 6:1-40

The Call:

When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian,⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”¹¹ The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹²When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

v7-12

Responsiveness

When **the Israelites cried** out to the Lord because of Midian,⁸ **he sent** them a prophet,

v7-8a

Just because God doesn't respond how we want, doesn't mean He isn't working for our good.

Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

v3-6

God's responsiveness includes Him dealing with sin.

The angel of the Lord came and **sat down under** the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, ¹²When **the angel of the Lord appeared** to Gideon, **he said**,

v11-12

The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.” ¹⁷**Gideon replied**, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. ¹⁸Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.” **And the Lord said, “I will wait until you return.”**

v16-18

Gideon said to God, **“If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—**³⁷ look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.” ³⁸**And that is what happened.** Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the

dew—a bowlful of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. **Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece**, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew.” ⁴⁰**That night God did so.** Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

v36-40

Kindness

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “**but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?** Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

¹⁴ The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

¹⁵ “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “**but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.**”

¹⁶ The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

v13-16

Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand **as you have promised**—³⁷ look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, **as you said.**”

v36-37

God is patient; He moves at His own pace while considering us.

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. **Stop doubting and believe.**”²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “**Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”

John 20:26-29

God’s responsiveness is predictable yet personal.

*“If any other condition had been better for you than the one in which you are, **divine love would have put you there.**”*

-C.H. Spurgeon

Commitment

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was **threshing wheat in a winepress** to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with **you, mighty warrior.**”

v11-12

God's commitment to us is stronger than our commitment to Him.

The crossroads:

When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"

²³ But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."

²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it **The Lord Is Peace**. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

²⁵ That same night the Lord said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. ²⁶ Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering."

²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. But because **he was afraid** of his family and the townspeople, **he did it** at night rather than in the daytime.

v22-27

Stop trying to be everything God has called you to be or do everything God has called you to do in a moment, grow into it.

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you **will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30

Jesus finished what God promised on the cross & will finish what God has started in you.

What are the easiest & hardest areas of obedience in your life?

Why?

What is your next best step of courage & obedience?