

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Right in the Eye: Part 5

Judges 6:34 – 7:25

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Pastor Brian

The People God Uses

1. COMMON PEOPLE.

“But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!” (Judges 6:15, NLT)

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”” (1 Samuel 16:7, NLT)

2. COMMITTED PEOPLE.

“And Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means “the LORD is peace”) ...” (Judges 6:24, NLT)

“The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him...” (2 Chronicles 16:9, NLT)

3. CONFIRMED PEOPLE.

“Then Gideon said to God, “If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, prove it to me in this way. I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If the fleece is wet with dew in the morning but the ground is dry, then I will know that you are going to help me rescue Israel as you promised.” And that is just what happened. When Gideon got up early the next morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung out a whole bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, “Please don’t be angry with me, but let me make one more request. Let me use the fleece for one more test. This time let the fleece remain dry while the ground around it is wet with dew.” So that night God did as Gideon asked. The fleece was dry in the morning, but the ground was covered with dew.” (Judges 6:36–40, NLT)

“But Jesus replied, “Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.” (Matthew 12:39, NLT)

4. COURAGEOUS PEOPLE.

“So Jerub-baal (that is, Gideon) and his army got up early and went as far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. Therefore, tell the people, ‘Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go

home.’” So 22,000 of them went home, **leaving only 10,000** who were willing to fight.” (Judges 7:1–3, NLT)

“Then the officers will also say, **‘Is anyone here afraid or worried?’** If you are, **you may go home** before you frighten anyone else.” (Deuteronomy 20:8, NLT)

“But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. **‘We can’t** go up against them! **They are stronger** than we are!” So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. **All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants** there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them **we felt like grasshoppers**, and that’s what they thought, too!” (Numbers 13:31–33, NLT)

“God didn’t give us a **cowardly spirit** but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment.” (2 Timothy 1:7, GW)

5. **CAREFUL** PEOPLE.

“But the LORD told Gideon, **‘There are still too many!’** Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not.” When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the LORD told him, “Divide the men into **two groups**. In one group put all **those who cup water in their hands** and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all **those who kneel down** and drink with their mouths in the stream.” Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream. The LORD told Gideon, **‘With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory** over the Midianites. Send all the others home.” (Judges 7:4–7, NLT)

‘Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, NLT)

6. **CONFIDENT** PEOPLE.

“So Gideon collected the provisions and rams’ horns of the other warriors and sent them home. But he kept the 300 men with him. The Midianite camp was in the valley just below Gideon. That night the LORD said, **‘GET UP! Go down into the Midianite camp, for I have given you victory over them! But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah.** Listen to what the Midianites are saying, and you will be greatly encouraged. **Then you will be eager to attack.**” So Gideon took Purah and went down to the edge of the enemy camp. The armies of Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east had settled in the valley like a swarm of locusts. Their camels were like grains of sand on the seashore—too many to count! Gideon crept up just as a man was telling his companion about a dream. The man said, **‘I had this dream, and in my dream a loaf of barley bread** came tumbling down into the Midianite camp. It hit a tent, turned it over, and knocked it flat!” His companion answered, “Your dream can mean only one thing—**God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over Midian** and all its allies!” When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, **he bowed in worship before the LORD.** Then he returned to the Israelite camp and shouted, **‘GET UP! For the LORD has given you victory** over the Midianite hordes!” (Judges 7:8–15, NLT)

*“And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O **mighty man of valor.**”” (Judges 6:12, ESV)*

*“**With God’s help we will do mighty things,** for he will trample down our foes.” (Psalm 60:12, NLT)*

7. **CLEVER PEOPLE.**

*“He divided the 300 men into three groups and gave each man **a ram’s horn and a clay jar with a torch in it.** Then he said to them, “Keep your eyes on me. When I come to the edge of the camp, do just as I do. As soon as I and those with me blow the rams’ horns, blow your horns, too, all around the entire camp, and shout, ‘**For the LORD and for Gideon!**’ ” It was just after midnight, after the changing of the guard, when Gideon and the 100 men with him reached the edge of the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew the rams’ horns and broke their clay jars. Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands, and **they all shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”**” (Judges 7:16–20, NLT)*

*“**The weapons of our warfare are not worldly,** but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds...” (2 Corinthians 10:4, HCSB)*

Spiritual weapons for spiritual warfare.

- a. **Trumpet** = **CLARITY** of our message.

*“For example, if the trumpet doesn’t sound **a clear call,** who will get ready for battle?” (1 Corinthians 14:8, GW)*

“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”” (Acts 4:12, NLT)

- b. **Broken Jars** = the **CONSECRATION** of our members.

“Having given thanks, he broke it and said, This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me.” (1 Corinthians 11:24, The Message)

“The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.” (Psalm 51:17, NLT)

- c. **Lamps** = the **CONVICTION** of our ministry.

*“In the same way, **let your good deeds shine out** for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:16, NLT)*

“...Now God is shining in our hearts to let you know that his glory is seen in Jesus Christ. We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:6–7, CEV)

8. **CALM** PEOPLE.

*“**Every man stood in his place** around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled. When they blew the 300 trumpets, **the LORD set every man’s sword against his comrade** and against all the army. And the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.” (Judges 7:21–22, ESV)*

*“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm. Let nothing move you.** Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV)*

*“Be on guard. **Stand firm in the faith.** Be courageous. Be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13, NLT)*

*“**Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm** against all strategies of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:11, NLT)*

ACTION STEP

Take the DREAM Team All Access Tour