

Pueblo Christian Center
4 Part Bible Study - Deliverance from Chaos – Pastor Steve

Part 3 – Go Shows Up and Calls Gideon to Deliver Israel

Book of Judges - Chapter 6:11-32

Introduction:

Last week we studied **Part 2 – “Crying Out to God Brings an Answer.”** The Nation of Israel was enduring 7 years of hardship, deprivation and Chaos. Their economy was so wrecked they began to call on the Name of the Lord.

The Lord answered by **sending a Prophet** who spoke directly to their situation. He reminded them that they had abandoned their **foundation** of Worship to the one true God. When they abandoned the Worship of the Lord, they began to worship the idols of the Amorites. The prophet was sent in answer to their prayers. After the prophet came, the Angel of the Lord (the Lord Himself) showed up personally to call Gideon. The Lord called and commissioned Gideon to be a Judge (Deliverer) for the Nation of Israel. His call was to lead them into battle against the vast army of the Amorites and their allies.

Judges 6:11-32

I. God came Personally to encounter Gideon -

*Vs 11 “Then the **angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites.**”*

*The ‘Angel of the Lord’ is a phrase Bible Scholars refer to at times in the Old Testament as a ‘Theophany.’ This is where God takes on a human form to bring a message to His people. So, this is the Lord Himself who is visiting Gideon personally!

*The Lord knows how to show up in a person’s life. He is not limited to any geographical place.

*The Lord showed up to meet Gideon because He knew Gideon yearned for God to be present and to be glorified in the land!

*God knows those ‘who are His people.’ He longs to meet with those who are hungry for Him.

* Jesus said, Matthew 5:6 **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they *SHALL BE SATISFIED.*”**

*God is looking for people who hunger for Him. He will meet with you IF you are hungry for him!

II. God’s call to Gideon was Personal and Specific!

*Vs 12 “The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, ‘**The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.**’*

*Gideon didn’t see himself as anything special, but **God saw him as a mighty warrior.**

*God knows us better than we know ourselves. It is vital to take on the **Identity that God has given us.**

*If you are a **true believer** in the Lord, **God sees you as a saint**, not a **sinner!** An overcomer, not a loser.

*Vs 14 “The Lord looked at him and said, ‘**Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?**”*

*Gideon’s strength was in his identity. Gideon was a child of God through his faith in God. God placed in him a warrior spirit against evil.

***God has placed His Holy Spirit in the life of every born-again believer. Your strength is in your God-given identity! Go in THIS YOUR STRENGTH!** 1

III. Gideon is Pragmatic and Wrestles with the Call of God

Vs 13 “...if the Lord is with us, **why then** has all this happened to us? And **where are all His miracles...but now the Lord has abandoned us into the hand of Midian.**”

*Gideon is realistic about Israel’s situation. He sees the magnitude of the Problem!

*All outward signs made it ‘**appear**’ that God had ‘**abandoned**’ them. **God did NOT abandon Israel**, He had given them over to their enemies. If their desires changed, God would show up to deliver them!

Vs 15 “He said to Him, **O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.**”

*Gideon looks at his own ability and resources. He doesn’t feel like he has much going for him.

*When we look to our own ability and resources we may not have much, but God is not looking at our ‘strength and abilities.’ He is looking at what He can do through us!

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

*God is giving Gideon the **DIFFERENCE MAKER** – **God Himself would be WITH Gideon!**

***God PROMISED Gideon VICTORY!** The Midianites (strife) **WOULD SURELY BE DEFEATED!**

*If God be **FOR YOU**, who could be **AGAINST** you? Romans 8:31

IV. God’s Call to Gideon was to go to WAR in order to bring PEACE.

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

*Jesus said, **Matthew 5:9** “*Blessed are the **PEACEMAKERS**, for they will be called sons of God.*”

***Peace MAKERS** are those who bring **true Peace** by **driving out evil**. God will not co-exist with evil, but He overcomes evil with His presence and power.

***Peace KEEPERS** are those who try to have a peace through **placating evil**.

***Jesus** is the **Prince of Peace**, but **He brings true Peace** by driving out evil!

***The Gospel** is called **the Gospel of Peace** because **God drives out evil to save people!**

V. God reveals Himself to Gideon as the God of Peace (Jehovah Shalom)

Vs 23 “**But the Lord said to him, ‘Peace!’ Do not be afraid. You are not going to die!**

Vs 24 **So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it THE LORD IS PEACE...**”

*Israel was being destroyed because **their IDOLATRY opened the door to CHAOS** and the **destruction of the enemy**.

*God gave Gideon the power to destroy the work of the enemy (strife).

*To be able to **win victories in your life**, you need to put your trust in the **GOD OF PEACE**.

*You can know that you are ‘**AT PEACE**’ with God through the Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Romans 5:1 “*Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith**, we have **PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.***”

***Gideon had to know He was at Peace WITH God** before He could go out and **win victories FOR God**.

VI. God instructs Gideon to start Delivering ISRAEL at HOME.

Vs 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.’”*

Vs 26 *“Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord your God on top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering.”*

*Midianites were ravaging the land, but God called Gideon to start deliverance in his own house!

*Gideon was to ‘tear down the altar of Baal and the Asherah pole’ in his father’s house!

*This would take courage, because the closest people to you have the greatest influence on you.

*Jesus’ call to Discipleship means that He must be number one in our lives, even over family!

*Gideon was to build an ALTAR OF WORSHIP TO THE LORD – God would be number one! Not an idol!

*Gideon’s REPENTANCE and FAITH positioned himself to be ready to be used by God to bring deliverance!

*Jesus said - Matthew 10:37 *“Anyone who loves their father or mother MORE THAN ME is NOT WORTHY of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”*

VII. Making a stand for Righteousness will COST YOU – But it is WORTH IT!

Vs 30 *“The people of the town demanded of Josh, bring out your son. He must die because he has broken down Baal’s altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.”*

*When you make a stand for righteousness and to obey what God is calling you to do, there will be persecution.

*2 Timothy 3:12 *“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*

*As followers of Jesus, you have to ‘make up your mind’ that PLEASING GOD is your HIGHEST PRIORITY.

*There could BE NO REAL DELIVERANCE FOR ISRAEL from the Midianites if there wasn’t ANYONE who was WILLING TO MAKE A STAND against the IDOLATRY AND WORSHIP OF BAAL and ASHOREH.

*Israel’s deliverance would start with them abandoning their idolatry and return to Worship the Lord.

*Spiritual life within the Church is absolutely vital if we are to see any impact on our Culture!

*We must have our own house in order before we can truly be used of God to bring deliverance to others!

Main Truths: Deliverance from Chaos starts at Home

*God shows up in answer to fervent prayer

*God shows up personally to people who desire Him

*God gives specific instructions to those who will respond to Him

*God will call you to do difficult things and tear down ‘idols’

*God will call you to build an altar of Worship and Sacrifice

*Understand and be prepared that ‘persecution’ is normal when you obey God

*Love and Fear God more than anyone or anything

*When God calls you to follow Him, He calls you for something greater than yourself

Discussion Questions:

- Q. Have **you** ever had an **encounter** with God?
- Q. Do **you** need a '**Fresh Encounter**' with God?
- Q. Has God ever **asked you** to do something that was very **difficult**?
- Q. What are modern '**Idols**' that may need to be torn down in **YOUR LIFE**?
- Q. Why did God tell Gideon to **tear down the idols** in his **own house** first?
- Q. What does it look like to '**Build and Altar of Sacrifice**' in **YOUR LIFE**?
- Q. Are **you prepared** to be '**persecuted**' for **obeying** God?
- Q. Are **you prepared** to be **used Mightily** by God?

***By starting at HOME – God was preparing Gideon to bring Deliverance for the Nation of Israel**

***Next week: God gives Gideon specific Divine strategy to defeat the Midianites!**

