

Courageous Faith

Part 6—No More Excuses, Overcoming Your Fears

Judges 6:1—¹Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years He gave them into the hands of the Midianites. (NIV)

1. An Unlikely Hero.

- The word “_____” and the word “_____” appear constantly throughout the story of Gideon
 - He uses the word “if” because he’s _____

Judges 6:11-12—¹¹Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. ¹²The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!” (NLT)

Judges 6:13—¹³“But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.” (NIV)

Judges 6:14—¹⁴Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!” (NIV)

2. Overcoming Our Excuses.

- Most of us know the story of Gideon—he offered every possible _____

Judges 6:17—¹⁷Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in Your eyes, give me a sign that it is really You talking to me.” (NIV)

Judges 6:36-40—³⁶⁻³⁷Gideon said to God, “If this is right, if You are using me to save Israel as You’ve said, then look: I’m placing a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If dew is on the fleece only, but the floor is dry, then I know that You will use me to save Israel, as You said.” ³⁸That’s what happened. When he got up early the next morning, he wrung out the fleece—enough dew to fill a bowl with water! ³⁹Then Gideon said to God, “Don’t be impatient with me, but let me say one more thing. I want to try another time with the fleece. But this time let the fleece stay dry, while the dew drenches the ground.” ⁴⁰God made it happen that very night. Only the fleece was dry while the ground was wet with dew. (MSG)

- Gideon had an army of _____ men, but the Midianites had _____ men

3. God’s Battle Plan.

- God told Gideon that he had _____ men
 - _____ men said they were afraid and left

Judges 7:5b-6—⁵⁻⁶GOD said to Gideon: “Everyone who laps with his tongue, the way a dog laps, set on one side. And everyone who kneels to drink, drinking with his face to the water, set to the other side.” Three hundred lapped with their tongues from their cupped hands. All the rest knelt to drink. (MSG)

Judges 7:10-11—¹⁰“If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah ¹¹and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the

camp.” So, he and Purah, his servant, went down to the outposts of the camp. (NIV)

- The enemy was _____ of Gideon and his army

Judges 7:19-22—¹⁹⁻²²Gideon and his hundred men got to the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after the sentries had been posted. They blew the trumpets, at the same time smashing the jars they carried. All three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands, ready to blow, and shouted, “A sword for GOD and for Gideon!” They were stationed all around the camp, each man at his post. The whole Midianite camp jumped to its feet. They yelled and fled. When the three hundred blew the trumpets, GOD aimed each Midianite’s sword against his companion, all over the camp. They ran for their lives. (MSG)

- Before the night was over, about _____ Midianites and Amalekites were dead
- All Gideon and his men had done was to stand there and make some _____ for God

Action Steps . . .

- Stop making excuses
- Get over your fears
- Have enough faith to follow God’s perfect plan