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We discover Gideon in the book of Judges in the Old Testament.

- At this time *Israel has fallen to the Midianites for 7 years.*

Judges 6:2-6, *The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys. These enemy hordes, coming with their livestock and tents, were as thick as locusts; they arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. And they stayed until the land was stripped bare. So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help.*

The First Time we see Gideon:

Judges 6:11-12, *Then 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. The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!”*

- God found Gideon at a place called Ophrah, which means **dustiness**.

Gideon was honest:

Judges 6:12-13, *The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!” “Sir,” Gideon replied, “**if** the LORD is with us, **why** has all this happened to us? And **where** are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The LORD brought us up out of Egypt’? **But** now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”*

- God response to Gideon's honesty - Judges 6:14-16.
- *Our limitations never limit God from being God and working in and through us.*

Gideon was obedient:

Judges 6:25-27, *That night the LORD said to Gideon, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it. Then build an altar to the LORD your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully. Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down."* So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD had commanded. But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town.

- *Gideon's first step of obedience was to deal with the sin in and around him.*
- **Obedience was essential...Being a hero was optional.**

God tested his faith:

Judges 7:2-7, *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. But the LORD told Gideon, "There are still too many! ... "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."*

KEY VERSE Judges 6:34, *Then the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon with power.*

Gideon stepped aside

Limitations + Unusual situations + God power = Great victories.