

## **Deliver Us From the Evil Within: Gideon**

**Judges 6-9**

**Week of Nov 8**

*As you enter into prayer now, take a moment to settle your mind. Put aside your concerns and what needs to get done today, or what didn't get done today. Take a slow, deep breath. Center yourself in His Peace. He is the Alpha and Omega. The Beginning and End. You are found in Him.*

*Be Still.*

Lord, open my heart and mind to hear and understand Your Word. I invite your Spirit to speak to me as I meditate on your Word.

When the Israelites were handed over to the Midianites, the oppression was fierce. They hid in rocks and caves to avoid them, and every time the Midianites had a chance, they would seize everything the Israelites had—crops, cattle. The Scripture says the Israelites were impoverished by them and cried out to the Lord for help.

It is into this scenario that God steps in and speaks to Gideon. Gideon is hiding in a winepress, trying to thresh grain so they could keep it safe from the Midianites.

We begin in Judges 6:12.

*When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "the Lord is with you, mighty warrior."*

*"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 hands of Midian."*

*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?"*

*"But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."*

*"The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."*

### **Pause and Pray.**

Jesus, I am here because I want to experience You. As I meditate on this passage, draw to mind those things that You would have me become more aware of. Center my heart and mind on Yourself. Use your Word to draw my heart to You. Amen.

### **REFLECT.**

The Lord is with you, Mighty Warrior.

I love how the story of Gideon develops. God finds Gideon, hiding. Trying to protect his family's food from the Midianites. Into this pitiful scene God's messenger comes, and tells Gideon that he is a mighty warrior.

I think for many years I heard the second part of this phrase but not the first. I think I assumed there was something special about Gideon. However, the only reason that Gideon is a mighty warrior is because the Lord is with Him. And everything that Gideon is instructed to do from here on out will diminish him and the strength of his army. He instructs him to diminish his army. Let it dwindle. Cut it in half. Cut it again. He starts with thousands of men, and when God is finished, there are only 300 men left.

We know from other stories that God could have done it with just one. He did in the story of David and Goliath. Just one small weak shepherd boy.

What is special about me, is not me, but the God that stands beside me, goes before me, is within me. Let that resonate within you for a second. PAUSE.

What is special about me is not me, but the God that stands beside me, goes before me, is within me. PAUSE.

The Lord is with you, Mighty Warrior.

### **PAUSE, PRAY AND ASK.**

Lord there are some areas of my life where I feel like anything but a mighty warrior. But I praise you that it is not about me. It is about You. So I bring these areas of concern before you now. PAUSE.

I ask now as I meditate on each of these areas that you would show me where you are working. PAUSE.

And now I praise You for what you are doing, and what you are going to do, because it is all about you. I do not walk alone. PAUSE.

### **YIELD.**

I return now to the text:

*When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "the Lord is with you, mighty warrior."*

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*us up out of Egypt? But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hands of Midian."*

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### **CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

We close today by praying Psalm 27, a psalm of David. David knew that his strength came from the Lord. Lord today, make this my prayer and my confidence. Help me approach the challenges of my day from this assurance.

The LORD is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When the wicked advance against me  
to devour<sup>(a)</sup> me,

it is my enemies and my foes  
who will stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army besiege me,  
my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me,  
even then I will be confident. Amen.