

Courageous Faith: Gideon – The Unlikely Hero

Key Takeaways

- 1. Your kingdom identity always outweighs your earthly value**
 - God sees us not as we are, but as who He's called us to be
 - God called Gideon "mighty warrior" when he was hiding in fear
- 2. Salvation begins at home**
 - Before saving the nation, Gideon had to tear down idols in his own house
 - Our witness starts with those closest to us
- 3. Each little step of faith emboldens the next**
 - God doesn't ask for giant leaps, just the next right step
 - Obedience builds momentum for greater faith
- 4. We are strongest when we are at our lowest**
 - God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300
 - "My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9)
- 5. God is faithful to fill the vessels He chooses**
 - God is looking for clean, humble, and available vessels
 - He provides everything we need to accomplish what He calls us to do

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read Judges 6:11-16. How does God's greeting of Gideon as "mighty man of valor" contrast with how Gideon saw himself? What does this teach us about God's perspective versus our own?
2. Why do you think God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300? What was God protecting His people from?
3. What significance do you see in Gideon returning to the threshing floor with the fleece when he needed reassurance?

Personal Reflection

4. Jonathan mentioned we often think we know better than God, just like the Israelites. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to "go your own way" instead of trusting God's direction?

- Jonathan stated: "I don't have what it takes. And He's not asking me to have what it takes." How does this truth free you from pressure or anxiety about what God has called you to?
- Gideon had to tear down idols in his own home before he could save the nation. What "idols" (things that take God's rightful place) might God be asking you to tear down in your own life or home?
- Think about a time when you felt weakest, but God showed up powerfully. How did that experience change your faith?

Application

- What is one area where you're currently feeling inadequate or unqualified? How might God be calling you to take a "next right step" of obedience despite your feelings?
 - Gideon asked God for confirmation through the fleece. When have you asked God for confirmation? How do you balance seeking confirmation with simply trusting and obeying?
 - Jonathan emphasized "preaching the gospel to yourself every day." What would this look like practically in your daily routine?
 - Read 2 Timothy 2:20-21. What does it mean to be a "vessel for honorable use"? What practical steps can you take this week to be clean, humble, and available to God?
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Practical Applications

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Daily Gospel Reminder

- Each morning, remind yourself: "I was dead in my sins, but by God's grace through Jesus, I am made alive and called for His purposes."
- Journal about one way you saw God's strength in your weakness each day.

Option 2: Identify Your Fleece

- Write down one area where you're struggling to trust God.
- Spend time in prayer asking God to confirm His presence and promises in that area.
- Look for His faithfulness in Scripture and in your circumstances.

Option 3: Tear Down an Idol

- Identify one thing that's taking God's rightful place in your life (social media, approval of others, comfort, control, etc.).
- Take one concrete step to "tear it down" this week.
- Share your commitment with one trusted person for accountability.

Option 4: Take the Next Right Step

- Identify one thing God has been calling you to do that you've been avoiding out of fear or inadequacy.
 - Take one small step of obedience this week, no matter how small.
 - Remember: God doesn't ask for perfection, just availability.
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Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Prayer Focus

Pray in these areas:

- **Confession:** Areas where we've trusted ourselves instead of God
 - **Surrender:** Laying down our need to be strong enough, wise enough, or good enough
 - **Courage:** For the next step of obedience God is calling each person to take
 - **Dependence:** That we would daily depend on God's strength, not our own
 - **Identity:** That we would see ourselves as God sees us—chosen, called, and equipped by Him
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"God is not looking for our greatest showing of strength. He's looking for our dependence, for total surrender to Him."