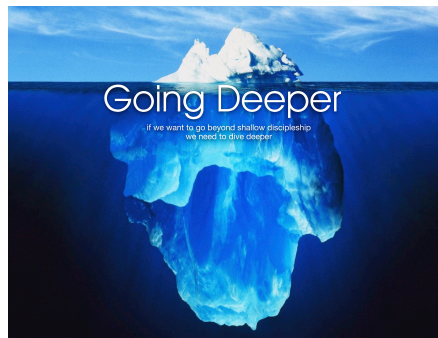


## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### Embracing God's Gift of Limits

With Jeremy Vasic  
Multiply and Mobilize Catalyst  
October 24, 2021



#### How can we see limits as a gift rather than a curse?

Judges 7:1-2 So Jerub-baal (that is, Gideon) and his army got up early and went as far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. <sup>2</sup> 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.

Judges 7:3-8 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. <sup>4</sup> But the Lord told Gideon, “There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not.” <sup>5</sup> When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the Lord told him, “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.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> The Lord told Gideon, “With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home.” <sup>8</sup> So Gideon collected the provisions and rams’ horns of the other warriors and sent them home. But he kept the 300 men with him.

Judges 7:8-11 The Midianite camp was in the valley just below Gideon. <sup>9</sup> That night the Lord said, “Get up! Go down into the Midianite camp, for I have given you victory over them! <sup>10</sup> But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. <sup>11</sup> Listen to what the Midianites are saying, and you will be greatly encouraged. Then you will be eager to attack.”

Judges 7:11-14 So Gideon took Purah and went down to the edge of the enemy camp. <sup>12</sup> The armies of Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east had settled in the valley like a swarm of locusts. Their camels were like grains of sand on the seashore—too many to count!<sup>13</sup> Gideon crept up just as a man was telling his companion about a dream. The man said, “I had this dream, and in my dream a loaf of barley bread came tumbling down into the Midianite camp. It hit a tent, turned it over, and knocked it flat!” <sup>14</sup> His companion answered, “Your dream can mean only one thing—God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over Midian and all its allies!”

Judges 7:15-22 When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship before the Lord. Then he returned to the Israelite camp and shouted, “Get up! For the Lord has given you victory over the Midianite hordes!” <sup>16</sup> He divided the 300 men into three groups and gave each man a ram’s horn and a clay jar with a torch in it. <sup>17</sup> Then he said to them, “Keep your eyes on me. When I come to the edge of the camp, do just as I do. <sup>18</sup> As soon as I and those with me blow the rams’ horns, blow your horns, too, all around the entire camp, and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon!’”

<sup>19</sup> It was just after midnight, after the changing of the guard, when Gideon and the 100 men with him reached the edge of the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew the rams’ horns and broke their clay jars. <sup>20</sup> Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands, and they all shouted, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” <sup>21</sup> Each man stood at his position around the camp and watched as all the Midianites rushed around in a panic, shouting as they ran to escape. <sup>22</sup> When the 300 Israelites blew their rams’ horns, the Lord caused the warriors in the camp to fight against each other with their swords. Those who were not killed fled to places as far away as Beth-shittah near Zererah and to the border of Abel-meholah near Tabbath.

**Big Idea: Experience More with Less by embracing God's gift of limits.**

**More fulfillment with less fatigue.**

**More security with less worrying.**

**More impact with less activity.**

Philippians 2:6-8 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

**Jesus limited himself, so that you don't need to be unlimited.**

**Prioritize Sabbath.**

**Don't fear saying no.**

**Set healthy boundaries.**

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service is from the New Living Translation (NLT).*



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

**Embracing God's Gift of Limits**  
**#3 of 7 - October 24, 2021**

- 1) **Look Back:** Last week we looked at a passage from Matthew 16 about following the crucified Jesus. Where did you see God working in your life in this regard this past week? How did this passage change you this past week?
  
- 2) **Look Up:** Read Judges 7. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
  
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passage? What interesting details do you observe? Is anything repeated? What questions come up about the passage? What surprises you in the passage? Are there connecting words or ideas?
  
- 4) **Meaning:** What meaning is inferred in this passage and what does this tell us about Jesus as the Messiah? What is God teaching about life and what implications does this have for followers of Christ?
  
- 5) What does it mean to "embrace God's limits" as disciples of Jesus in modern North America? Why are limits necessary to follow Jesus as Saviour and Lord?
  
- 6) **Look Forward: Application.** How is this passage going to change you this week? This may be a behaviour change, a specific action step, or a perspective shift that changes you. What aspect of this teaching do you need to pass on to others?



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

**Embracing God's Gift of Limits**  
**#3 of 7 - October 24, 2021**

- 1) **Look Back:** Last week we looked at a passage from Matthew 16 about following the crucified Jesus. Where did you see God working in your life in this regard this past week? How did this passage change you this past week?
  
- 2) **Look Up:** Read Judges 7. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
  
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passage? What interesting details do you observe? Is anything repeated? What questions come up about the passage? What surprises you in the passage? Are there connecting words or ideas?
  
- 4) **Meaning:** What meaning is inferred in this passage and what does this tell us about Jesus as the Messiah? What is God teaching about life and what implications does this have for followers of Christ?
  
- 5) What does it mean to "embrace God's limits" as disciples of Jesus in modern North America? Why are limits necessary to follow Jesus as Saviour and Lord?
  
- 6) **Look Forward: Application.** How is this passage going to change you this week? This may be a behaviour change, a specific action step, or a perspective shift that changes you. What aspect of this teaching do you need to pass on to others?