

"GIDEON: Calling The Unqualified"

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Judges 6:1-35

By: Allen Coleman

[VIDEO - "Calling"]

INTRODUCTION

1. *Calling*

(1) Do you know what God has called you to do with your life?

2. *Decision Making*

(1) Immediate decisions of little apparent consequence

(2) Short-term decisions of consequence

(3) Large-scale decisions of high consequence

I. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S CALLING (v1-10)

1. *His Purpose Is To Bring Us To Dependance on Jesus (v1-6)*

INTERPRETATION

(1) **Map**= Midian/people of the East

(2) Manasseh=causing to forget

(3) 'and the people cried out for help TO THE LORD'

(i) Let's be clear, in calling the next Judge, of chief concern is to bring Israel to a state of dependance on Yahweh/God.

(ii) Because whatever you depend on most will influence your decision most

ILLUSTRATION

(4) Election

(i) if you depend on a limited government and a socially conservative agenda, you will probably vote Republican

(ii) If you depend on a big government and a socially liberal agenda, you will probably vote Democrat

(iii) Celebrity reactions (Cher).

(5) A word on the Election. I belong to neither part and neither candidate. Potential unintended errors:

(i) Christians are deplorable, not just wrong (morally qualified candidate)

(ii) non-Christians are polarized. Trump supporters=dignity, worth, value



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IMPLEMENTATION

- (6) Your responses are indicative of what you depended on. So are your decisions.
 - (i) If you depend on money, money will influence most of your decision making process.
 - (ii) If you depend on family, family will influence most of you decision making process.

[**1 COR. 1:9** - *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*]

- (7) If what you depend on more than anything is Jesus, Jesus will be the driving force, the predominate influence in the way we make decisions and the decisions themselves.
- (8) And this is so importance because in bringing us into dependance upon Himself, he can do the same for others.
- (9) Therefore, His purpose is to bring us to dependance on Jesus and to send us for deliverance through Jesus.

2. *His Purpose Is To Send Us For Deliverance Through Jesus* (v7-10)

INTERPRETATION

- (1) "the Lord sent a prophet...and I delivered you"
 - (i) The Judge that he calls to depend upon the Lord, he sends.
 - (ii) The purpose for which he sends, is to deliver.

ILLUSTRATION

- (2) I didn't choose Marin County:
 - (i) Because it's an up and coming young community
 - (ii) Because of its cost of living
 - (iii) Because its a place where the church is thriving
 - (iv) Because it was the closest to family
- (3) I chose Marin County because it was clear, this is where God wanted me to Make Jesus Known for their deliverance. And I could come here because I'm trying to live a life depending on Jesus alone.

IMPLEMENTATION



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- (4) Every single decision you will have to make in this life, as a Christian, is ultimately about Making Jesus Known.
 - (i) First to yourself, so will come to depend on Him more
 - (ii) Secondly to others, so they will be delivered through Him.
- (5) Every decision? Yes.
 - (i) Who to marry? Will they help you depend on Jesus more so you can be sent to deliver through Jesus.
 - (ii) Which car you buy, house you buy...hec, even the sweater, all have Gospel implications if you all them to.

[1 COR. 6:19-20 - ...You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God...]

- (6) You are not your own anymore.
- (7) We belong to God, which means all of our decisions belong to God. Therefore, calling is about unqualified people bringing every choice into dependance on Jesus, which qualifies them to be used for other's deliverance through Jesus.

II. THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S CALLING (v11-16)

1. God Calls Unqualified People (v11-15)

INTERPRETATION

- (1) Joash- Gideon's father
 - (i) v25 tells us he is a Baal worshipper
 - (ii) Which means that the man God is calling to Judge Israel doesn't come from a household that is faithful to the God of Israel, Yahweh.
- (2) Beating out wheat
 - (i) preparing offering for the Midianites
- (3) Angel of the Lord
 - (i) Theophany (pre-incarnate) - Jesus (v23)
- (4) "Oh, might man of valor"
 - (i) Satire? Probably because God is with Him, He is mighty.
- (5) Oh yeah, if God is with us, then why hasn't he done anything about the Midianites.



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- (i) v14 - "Do I not send you"?

ILLUSTRATION

- (6) Why don't we have a _____ ministry? Ok...start it.
 - (i) Oh, no...I have a trick knee....I just had dental work...my religion doesn't allow it.

IMPLEMENTATION

- (7) The answer to sin's effect in the world is through God's people in the world.
 - (i) Somebody should help them.
 - (ii) Somebody should do that.
 - (iii) Somebody should address that problem
 - (iv) How about you?
- (8) When you're making decisions...are you considering they might preclude you from being God's ambassador of change?
- (9) But I'm not qualified?

[1 TI. 1:16 - *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.]*

- (10) v15 - "How can I save Israel, my clan is the weakest, I am the least"
 - (i) God loves to call unqualified people. Why?

2. **God Qualifies Called People (v16)**

INTERPRETATION

- (1) "But I will be with you" = Which makes Him completely qualified.

ILLUSTRATION

- (2) I didn't go to seminary, I didn't know how to study the Bible.

IMPLEMENTATION

- (3) God qualifies called people. In doing so, God is glorified rather than minimized.
 - (i) If you weren't qualified to save yourself...to help them, lead that, go there. Who gets the credit, then?
- (4) **We belong to God, which means all of our decisions belong to God. Therefore, calling is about unqualified people bringing every choice into dependance on Jesus, which qualifies them to be used for other's deliverance through Jesus.**



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III. THE PROCESS OF GOD'S CALLING (v17-35)

1. Calling Is A Process Of Saving Faith (v17-23)

INTERPRETATION

- (1) Appetizer, main course, dessert
 - (i) Steak is good sign
 - (ii) If God really wants me to do this, I would like to cook me a steak. And some soup. And...cake.
- (2) v23 - you shall not die

ILLUSTRATION

- (3) My mom: catholic. every decision caused agony.

IMPLEMENTATION

- (4) For the Christian, there's some more good news here. Your choices don't affect your salvation.
 - (i) Maybe your paralyzed because you don't want to make a mistake.
 - (ii) God has a long resumé of working out for good wrong choices, made for right reasons (tfor your dependance or other's deliverance).
 - (iii) What is not at stake is your standing before God.

[RO. 8:38-39 - ...I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.]

- (5) And not your bad decisions!
 - (i) Can you receive forgiveness today?
- (6) Our choices begin vertically.
 - (i) Do I depend on Jesus more than the results of this decision? Ok...then whatever I do next, I need to know that God will use it for good.
- (7) Your choices don't affect your salvation. But your salvation does affect your choices....



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2. *Calling Is A Process Through Living Faith* (v24-35)

INTERPRETATION

- (1) The first thing Gideon does, is build an altar to the Lord
- (2) The second thing Gideon does, is tear down the altar to Baal.
 - (i) Their is a response produced by saving faith.
- (3) A vertical response...built an altar.
- (4) A horizontal response...tear down an idol.

ILLUSTRATION

- (5) Friend: moved every couple years her whole life.
- (6) Subsequently taught this was the way you start over.

IMPLEMENTATION

- (7) Some of you, building the altar has felt like the easy part.
- (8) It's tearing down the old ones that has felt impossible.
- (9) *We belong to God, which means all of our decisions belong to God. Therefore, calling is about unqualified people bringing every choice into dependance on Jesus, which qualifies them to be used for other's deliverance through Jesus.*

CONCLUSION

1. You are not qualified to stand before God.
2. Thank God for Jesus.
3. Through your dependance on Him, you are now completely, wholly, thoroughly qualified.
4. All because of grace.
5. *We belong to God, which means all of our decisions belong to God. Therefore, calling is about unqualified people bringing every choice into dependance on Jesus, which qualifies them to be used for other's deliverance through Jesus.*

