

The Lord's Threshing Floor

Two weeks ago I spoke from **Matt. 3:1-10** about “**Taking the Axe to the Root**” of Adam’s tree in our lives. Today I have a message that is not patently new, but it’s needed.

Let’s go to **Matt. 3:11-12 TPT** and begin a dive into what I’ve simply entitle “**The Threshing Floor.**” *“Those who repent I baptize with water, but there is coming a Man after me who is more powerful than I am. In fact, I’m not even worthy enough to pick up his sandals. He will submerge you into union with the Spirit of Holiness and with a **raging fire**!”* **12.** *He comes with a winnowing fork in His hands and comes to **His threshing floor** to sift what is worthless from what is pure. And He is ready to sweep out His threshing floor and gather His wheat into His granary (Isa. 41:15-16), but the straw He will burn up with a fire that can’t be extinguished!”* Let’s pray.

First thing I believe we should take note of is the word “**repent.**” The **AMPC** reads “[that is, because of your changing your minds for the better, heartily amending your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins.”

The next thing to note is the **humility** of John the Baptist. Every prophet needs to live and exercise their gift with humility deeply ingrained in their character. Always remember that **the gift, any gift, says more about the Giver than it does about the receiver!**

Thirdly, ***TPT note:** “The text [in **v. 11**] is somewhat ambiguous as to what **fire** is spoken of. Some see it as the **fire** of judgment, yet Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit, who baptized His church in the **fire** at Pentecost. This last clause is a hendiadys and could be translated “*He will baptize you in the raging fire of the Holy Spirit!*”” **SFLB** note: “Fire either purifies or destroys. Hence, salvation in Jesus Christ will be purifying for the true Jews who accept Him as Messiah and destructive for those who reject Him.”

V. 12 A “winnowing fork” was necessary for threshing back then, for it was similar to a pitchfork that was used to throw the grain into the air so that wind could blow away the chaff that once contained the grain.

The Lord Jesus “comes to **His threshing floor** to sift what is worthless from what is pure.” Each one of us who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord are going through a threshing season right now for it is **His threshing floor** that we are on right now & have been on many times before, no doubt. This is a season of threshing in the Body of Christ, for the Lord seeks the fruit of His labors spoken of in John 15. Redemption fruit. However, this process has a reward.

Let’s look at Gideon to see what he went through & why. **Judges 6 describes the problem** (disobedience of Israelites & Midianites who steal the harvest) **and the strategy to solve the problem** (seek God). Read **6:1-10 NKJV**.

The threshing floor exposes the fears we still have inside of us still. God will expose bondages in order to get rid of them. For the sake of our understanding, let’s parallel Gideon’s threshing with our lives being threshed by God. Gideon is unaware that while he is threshing wheat, God is about to thresh him, for the Lord comes to His “threshing floor” in us to separate the wheat from the chaff in us. He wants His Holiness revealed to us, & His nature, His power, His Word revealed through us. God is maturing the Body of Christ into a greater force to be reckoned with, and this requires purity in the inner man by removal of carnality. He’s bringing a revelation of Himself to the world through us. **Col. 1:27 TPT** “*Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for His people, and God wants everyone to know it!*”

Judges 6:11. The Angel of the Lord comes to the threshing floor where Gideon should’ve been instead of being in a wine press

season. Gideon's threshing wheat in a wine press is a fear-basis being revealed. We all have them, but often don't know what to do to be rid of them. But God does! Look with me at how the Lord "threshes" Gideon (and us, by association) into liberty to fulfill **his destiny** – **Israel's deliverer**.

Heb. 4:12 TPT *"For we have the living Word of God, which is **full of energy** (TPT note: "Aram. "all effective". There is a hint here of the spinning sword of fire, held by the angel guarding the way to the Tree of Life [Gen. 3:24]. To come to eat its fruit, you must pass through the mighty sword of fire. The context implies we pass through this "fire-sword" on our way into the holy of holies. When the veil was split in two (Matt. 27:51), the cherubim embroidered on the veil parted, as it were, to allow every worshiper to enter into the unveiled presence of God.") and it pierces more sharply than a two-edged sword. It will even penetrate to the very core of our being where soul and spirit, bone and marrow meet! It interprets and reveals the true thoughts and secret motives of our hearts."* **Threshing!!!** Persecuted believers cry for God's Word & prayer more than anything else. This is why!

The threshing floor season is not a crushing floor season, but a **separating season**. It's so important to be in Scripture **every day**, for this is what separates soul from spirit, and reveals whether we are living a soulish life or a spiritual one. **TPT note:** "Soul and spirit are the immaterial parts of every person that make us who we are, joint and bone marrow are the physical aspects of our existence. All of this combined forms our humanity. God's Word has the ability to uncover our hidden aspects and make them known." **Study God's Word & live!**

The threshing floor is a "why" revealing place

Judges 6:12-13 *"Lord, if you are truly with us, why.... Where are all His miracles..."* Be careful not to hold to things of a past season that are not to be taken into the next season, which is across the board today. People are in insane asylums today for holding on to their past.

Judges 6:14-16 Dr. Tammy Powers: “God is meeting Gideon in the wrong place doing the right thing. Threshing floor seasons are a time of getting alone with God so that He can speak with us about the next steps we are to take. The enemy will try to keep us so busy that we are not able to get alone with God. The Hebrew letters for “busy” has a combined number that is “the snake in the basket”. If we’re too busy to spend time with Jesus, not able to get into His Word, then we will not know the assignment that He has for us (**V. 15** “*Behold Lord, how will I rescue Israel...*”). This season will reveal our insecurities. This is a hard time of shifting seasons, for when He shifts seasons back to the original intent of God upon our lives, we have choices to make to change. The previous season was a part of the journey, but now He’s redirecting us into the original intent. But don’t doubt what He’s done and what He’s doing. You can do it for yourself, but you can’t do it for somebody else.”

Gideon is having a back and forth with God, so it’s important for us to have a right-now conversation with Jesus to reveal next steps. Gideon does it, even to the point of going into the enemy’s camp to hear the enemy’s fear (7:9-14). But that is where the victory comes in, through the obedience, and hearing the voice in conversation with God. God wants to meet us in this threshing floor season, instead of complaining that the enemy is doing this or that. Speak more about Jesus instead. God still meets us even if we’re in the wrong season with the wrong tools.

Lay your burdens down right now and surrender to God’s will for your life as much as you possibly can. Converse with God right now and give him permission to do whatever He wants to. Make room for Him in your heart right now!