

Pastor John Miller, 08-09-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do...If I Was Gideon? Pt-1

Purpose: Provoke people to see themselves as God sees us so we can do what God calls and enables us to do.

Truth for Today: If we see ourselves as God sees us, we can do what God calls and empowers us to do.

Topic: Gideon, Oppression, Limitations, Faith, Opposition

Text: Judges ch. 6-7

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

What Would I Do...If I Was Gideon? Pt-1

- I. Introduction (construction; Flyer Hope in the Hallways)
 - A. Review series: What Would I Do If... We're learning life lessons from Bible characters. Today's message is called, What Would I Do, If I Was Gideon? Pt-1.
 - B. Purpose: Provoke people to see themselves as God sees us so we can do what God calls and empowers us to do.
- II. Context: The Book of Judges is a period of Israel's history between Joshua's leadership and the Kings. Judges were spiritual and governmental leaders. The history of the nation was a cycle of obeying God and being blessed and turning their backs on God and being disciplined to restore them. In Gideon's day, Israel was oppressed by the Midianites and God would use Him to lead Israel's army to defeat the Midianites.
- III. Judges 6:1 (NIV) The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for 7 years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters...in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites... invaded the country. ⁵...to ravage it. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help...⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord...says: I brought you up out of Egypt... ⁹... and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites... But you have not listened to me.'"
 - A. Israel's disobedience opened the door for God to discipline them. God used the Midianites. They let Israel raise food and then would come in and take it. Their problems made them pray but it took a prophet to point out the root cause, sin. [Heb12:6 (NLT)] For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." Life App #1: The same dynamic is at work today. God loves us but when we reject His ways our sin has consequences. Life App #2: God will use whatever it takes to get us back on the right track because He loves us.
 - B. [Vs. 11] The angel of the Lord came...where... Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. Pic BOX ¹²...the angel...said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." ¹³ "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "**but** if the Lord is with us, **why** has all this happened to us? **Where are all his wonders** that our ancestors told us about when they said..." ¹⁴ 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?”¹⁵ “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? **My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.**”¹⁶ The Lord answered, “**I will be with you**, and you will strike down all the Midianites...”
- C. [Vs. 12 the angel...said, “**The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.**”] Gideon didn’t look, feel or act like a mighty warrior. What made him and makes us mighty is God. **Life App #3:** We have to change the way we see ourselves. God sees our potential; we see our circumstances and limitations.
- D. [Vs. 13 Gideon replied, “**but** if the Lord is with us, **why** has all this happened to us? **Where are all his wonders** that our ancestors told us about...] Everyone at times wonders why things happen or don’t happen and wonder where God is.
- a. **Life App #4:** Sometimes our understanding of what God is doing or not doing doesn’t make sense. We have a choice to make; give up or trust and obey.
- E. [Vs. 14 The Lord...said, “**Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?**”¹⁵ “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? **My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.**”¹⁶ The Lord answered, “**I will be with you**, and you will strike down all the Midianites,] God’s calling and empowerment plus whatever resources, abilities will be enough. **Life App #5:** God can do great works through ordinary people, if we are willing to trust and obey.
- F. God’s call of Gideon and Moses was amazingly similar. [Ex. 3:7-12 ESV the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt...8 and **I have come down to deliver them...**10 **Come, I will send you** to Pharaoh that you may bring my people...out of Egypt.” 11 But **Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go...**12 **He said, “But I will be with you...**] Moses made excuses and Gideon did, too, but both of them finally said yes to God. **Life App #6:** Don’t let our lack of resources, abilities or the circumstances stop us from getting out of the winepress and doing what God has called us to do.

IV. Conclusion

- A. [Judges 6:22–23 (NIV)] When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, “Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”²³ But the LORD said to him, “**Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.**”²⁴ So **Gideon built an altar** to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace.]
1. **Gideon got out of the winepress and on his knees before God.** An altar was a place to meet with God. When we are doing God’s work and face fear from whatever the source, spend time in God’s Presence and His peace will guide you to the next step.

V. Response

- A. Prayer: Feel like Gideon: in a box, circumstances are against you- feel helpless
- B. Souls: There’s another box we can’t get out of called sin. It keeps us from having a relationship with God and will send us to hell unless we are forgiven. Problem-Solution-Choice

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

- A. Lindsey, F. D. (1985). [Judges](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 391). Victor Books.

VII. Supplemental material

- A. The seven years of oppression under the hands of Midianites was divine chastening for Israel's idolatry and evil practices. This relatively brief period of oppression was sandwiched in between two 40-year periods of peace (5:31; 8:28). The Midianites were descendants of Abraham and Keturah (Gen. 25:1–2) and were defeated by Israel during the wilderness wanderings (Num. 22:4; 25:16–18). They were a nomadic people who came from near the Gulf of Aqabah and ranged throughout the Arabah and Transjordan, apparently at this time subduing the Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites as they crossed the Jordan into Canaan as far north as the Jezreel Valley (Jud. 6:33), and as far south and east as **Gaza** (v. 4), perhaps moving westward across the Jezreel Valley and southward along the coastal plain.
- B. The strength of Midianite oppression forced the Israelites to hide themselves and their produce in mountain clefts, caves, and strongholds. However, this was not a continual occupation (like the preceding one of the Canaanites) but a seasonal invasion at harvesttime, whenever the Israelites planted their crops. The Midianites' major goal was the appropriation of the crops for themselves and their animals. But the cumulative effect of these invasions on Israelite agriculture and food cycles was devastating.¹
- C. We want confirmation we're in God's will. Sometimes it comes and sometimes it doesn't Vs 17 Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, **give me a sign** that it is really you talking to me. ¹⁸ Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return." ¹⁹ Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak. ²⁰ The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. ²² When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"

¹ Lindsey, F. D. (1985). [Judges](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 391). Victor Books.