

Pastor John Miller, 08-23-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do...If I Was Gideon? Pt-2

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, Spiritual Warfare

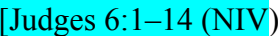
Text: Judges ch. 6-7

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-2

I. Introduction

- A. Review series: "What Would I Do If..." Today we'll ask ourselves the question, Title: What Would I Do, If I Was Gideon-pt2. Learning life lessons from Biblical characters
- B. Review pt-1 Period of Israel's history between Joshua and Kings. They were ruled by judges.  The Israelites **did evil** in the eyes of the Lord...he gave them into the hands of the **Midianites**. (They were **disciplined for their sin**. They lived in caves and Midianites stole their food. Finally, they **cried out to God** and He raised up **Gideon to deliver** them. He was in a **winepress threshing wheat**.   ¹²...the **angel of the Lord** appeared to Gideon, he said, "**The Lord is with you, mighty warrior**." ¹³...Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, **why** has all this happened to us..." ¹⁴ The Lord...said, "**Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?**" 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. Today we'll see how Gideon obeyed God against incredible odds and God used him to deliver the nation. There are some major life lessons we can learn.

II. 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!" (Ex. 33:20) 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.]

- A. Gideon was afraid because he saw God, (theophany), and of the Midianite army. His response to fear was to worship God. An altar was a place of sacrifice to meet with God. Life App #1: When we're facing impossible circumstances and fear creeps in, spend time in God's Presence and His peace will guide you.  LaNell altar cancer crying out to God 4 am

III. **Tear down your father's altar to Baal** (a very important Canaanite god of fertility, storms and agriculture) **and cut down the Asherah pole** (idol shaped like a pole to worship the main Canaanite goddess Asherah)...²⁶...But because **he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night** ²⁸ In the morning...there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down ...²⁹ They asked... "Who did this?" ... "Gideon son of Joash did it." ³⁰ The people... demanded... "Bring out

your son. **He must die...**³³ Now all the **Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces** and crossed over the Jordan and **camped...**]

1. Life App #2: Doing what God says may be risky and cost us something. Do it anyway and have faith God will be with you.
 2. Life App #3: We are in a spiritual war trying to stop God's plan. The devil has always opposed God's people and it's no different today. [Eph. 6:11-18 (NLT)] Put on all of **God's armor** so that you will be able to stand firm against all **strategies (ESV schemes, NCV evil tricks) of the devil**.¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against **evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world...and against evil spirits in the heavenly places...**¹⁶ In addition to all of these, **hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.** (e.g. marriage in trouble and you think/ feel, I can't keep on loving her...or Phil. 4:13 I can thru Christ)¹⁷...**take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**¹⁸ **Pray in the Spirit at all times...** E.g. financial problem, Ph. 4:19 My God shall supply me needs, Mt. 6:33 Don't worry, God knows my needs.
 3. Life App #4 In this war, we must do more than pray, we must confront evil, like Gideon. E.g. Parents pushing back against schools encouraging gender confusion.
 4. The HS will help us Pic 3 He spoke to me re. difficulty: construction cross down-devil wants to destroy the church- Like the building enlargement, God will build COTR stronger and bigger than before and we will impact the world for Jesus.
- IV. Summarize: (1) Gideon needed confirmation before battle: 2 fleeces. (2) God reduces the army so no man can take credit. [2 The Lord said to Gideon, "**You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast... 'My own strength has saved me.'**"] Drops from 32k-10k-300. [12 The Midianites...and all the other eastern people...**thick as locusts.** Their **camels...**the sand on the seashore.] [Zech. 4:6 (NCV)]... "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: '**You will not succeed by your own strength or by your own power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD All-Powerful.**"]
- A. Life App # 5 God can do what is humanly impossible when we obey. *** Fighting marriage, wayward child, financial pressures, business is in trouble. Pray until you have peace about what God wants you to do and do it and see what God does.
- V. Conclusion: [16 Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed **trumpets and empty jars** in the hands of all of them, with torches inside... **Trumpet, pitcher, flashlight** 20 The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars....they shouted, "**A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!**"²¹...all the Midianites...fled. ²² When the 300 trumpets sounded, **the Lord caused the men...to turn on each other with their swords.**] God caused their enemies to kill each other, and it all started with a man hiding in a winepress and God said, "**The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.**" Truth for Today: **If we see ourselves as God sees us, we can do what God calls and empowers us to do.**
- VI. Response
- A. Prayer: Disciplined and need to repent; In a spiritual battle; God calling you to do something and you want to obey but your faith is weak.
 - B. Souls: Why did God help Israel? They repented of sin and began a new relationship with God. We can, too. Problem- Solution- Decision

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

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.
2. Picture 1 https://duckduckgo.com/?q=picture+gideon+winepress+angel&ia=images&iar=images&iai=https%3A%2F%2Fblogger.googleusercontent.com%2Fimg%2Fb%2FR29vZ2xl%2FAVvXsEhrVtBLohxfKU0lrdIJ0aJMia-T02bQ_DbbVqSx_7F1UTypMqGhQ5vOJlDfOWuA0cfBdF5nJA5gwALbuFptGB0EfyfqlDyVPN4Lz41x9aosy7HI8FIGFVuiY4nAi4Xaxaow94XvnpGAJEdbqLyCbLrvFTSw3aIaCA5mO4FDIslJM886Hebh3MEXN4DC1NE%2Fw1200-h630-p-k-no-nu%2F11877.jpg
3. Picture 2 Gideon cutting down Asherah pole. Cole found this
4. Picture 3 front of the church during construction
5. Picture 4 PJ and LaNell's with grandkids

VIII. 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!”
- D. Vs 34 Then **the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon**, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. ³⁵ He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.
- E. The key to our victory over darkness is the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit that came upon Gideon lives in us. God is looking for people willing to lead. Matt Pitts kids hotel
- F. We want confirmation we’re in God’s will. Sometimes it comes and sometimes it doesn’t Vs 17 ³⁶ Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—³⁷ look, I will place a **wool fleece** on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.” ³⁸ And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. **Allow me one more test with the fleece**, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew.” ⁴⁰ That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.
- G. Vs 1 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. ² The Lord said to Gideon, “**You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’**” ³ Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So **twenty-two thousand men left**, while **ten thousand remained**. ⁴ But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are **still too many men**. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” ⁵ So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” ⁶ Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. ⁷ **The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”** ⁸ So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others. Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. ⁹ During that night the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. ¹⁰ If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah ¹¹ and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. ¹² The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern

peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

- H. God often gives us encouragement/ confidence to face our fears. ¹³ **Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”** ¹⁴ **His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.”** ¹⁵ When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.”