

## Mighty Warrior – Part 3

### Not An Idol Exchange

Judges 6:22-32

**22** And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

**23** And the LORD said unto him, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

**24** Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD and called it Jehovah-Shalom: unto this day it *is* yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

**25** And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that *is* by it:

**26** And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

**27** Then Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do *it* by day, that he did *it* by night.

**28** And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar *that* was built.

**29** And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.

**30** Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.

**31** And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst *it is yet* morning: if he *be* a god, let him plead for himself, because *one* hath cast down his altar.

**32** Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

- Gideon has sacrificed of himself on the Rock and watched as God proved Himself.
- Now God wanted Gideon to do something to prove he was serious.
  - Gideon hadn't been taught to worship God, he had been taught to worship Baal.
  - Joash, Gideon's father and other men of Israel had set up places of worship to the false god Baal.
  - God wanted Gideon to tear those places down and replace it with an altar of worship for Jehovah.

### **Why is this so important?**

- Gideon needed to see that Baal was not real
  - Gideon accepted Baal's existence because it's how he was raised
    - Gideon would have to choose between God and Baal
    - God has rules about that which Gideon would have also been aware of
  - Had Baal been real he would have dealt with Gideon

- Gideon was not afraid of Baal, but of Baal's worshippers
  - Gideon performed this act at night to avoid confrontation
  - Your relationship changes with those you worshipped a false God with
  - This is a fact you have to accept
- Have you ever thought about this?
  - When we worship God in any way other than His Word says, it is idol worship
  - When we add to true worship we make it false
  - When we take away from true worship we make it false
  - Gideon had learned about God, he knew the stories, but he had been taught a worship of God that allowed idolatry
  - We **MUST** be so very careful of allowing idolatry into our worship for such trivial reasons like
    - I was raised that way
    - It's just what I'm comfortable with
    - Well, Pastor said...
  - When we as His children don't seek His Word and follow His Spirit for ourselves, that is IDLE worship
- Want the Real Rules for how to worship God?
  - **John 4:21** Jesus saith unto her, "**Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.**"

**22** Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

**23** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

**24** *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*”

- Rule #1 You MUST Have the Spirit
- Rule #2 You MUST have the Truth
  - In other words you need Jesus, The Word and you need Jesus' Spirit
  - YOU NEED JUST WORRY ABOUT JESUS
    - Have I met with Jesus today
    - Have I praised Jesus today
    - Have I honored Jesus today
    - Have I made my life to worship Jesus today
    - Is Jesus pleased with my choices today
    - Why is this so important????

#### □ **God is real**

- Gideon asked where God had been
  - God didn't explain Himself as that He was not at fault
  - God simply told Gideon His plan to use him
    - I believe Gideon was there when the prophet spoke to Israel in verses 8-10
    - I believe God started dealing with Gideon's heart then
    - God reminded Israel of Who He Was and How good He had been to them

- God reminded them that their situation was not His doing, but theirs because of disobedience
  - **Much like God does in our hearts each service as He reminds us of His goodness and plan that we too often ignore**
- God proved Himself to be real to Gideon when Gideon **sacrificed**
  - Baal had no angel, but God did
  - Baal had no power, but God does
- Now Gideon needed to make a conscious **public** choice
  - While he performed the act of obedience at night, they knew he was responsible
    - Don't think for one minute the 10 servants didn't talk
    - Gideon's faith was now public
  - Baal's existence was brought into scrutiny
    - Joash asked the worshipers of Baal, "If Baal was a god, he would have defended himself
    - He didn't, so leave Gideon alone"
  - Baal's followers, God's people of Israel, tried to stop what God was doing in Gideon's life...
- **God didn't call Gideon to deliver Israel so Israel could stop him**
  - Gideon didn't need to fear Baal's followers
  - Gideon didn't need to fear his family
- Gideon needed to give **ALL** of his worship to Jehovah
  - How he was raised was irrelevant
  - How he went forward was relevant
- **Are We Mighty Warriors?**
  - This is not some insignificant action in Gideon's life
    - This is when everything changed

- It was Not An Idol Exchange
  - It was Not An Idle Exchange
  - It was a choice of **Sanctification**
- We are not choosing a different Idol to Worship
- We cannot choose Idle Worship
- We are choosing to worship what is Real
  - Our pedigree is irrelevant
  - Our defeats are irrelevant
  - Our past choices are irrelevant
  - Our current situations are irrelevant
  - Our abilities are irrelevant
  - Our ideology is irrelevant
  - All that matters is our obedience!
- Our Worship in Obedience Matters!
- All the Matters is Jesus!!!
  - What about what my friends think?
  - What about what my church family thinks?
  - What about what my family thinks?
  - What about...what Jesus thinks?
    - Where we worship doesn't matter
      - You don't have to be in a church building to choose to give your life to Christ
    - When we worship doesn't matter
      - You don't have to wait to 11AM on Sunday
      - You don't have to program God into your life
      - You just need to **Make Him Your Life!**
    - **Because Who we Worship Matters!**
    - **Rule #1** You MUST Have the Spirit
    - **Rule #2** You MUST have the Truth
      - In other words you need Jesus, The Word and you need Jesus' Spirit
      - YOU NEED JUST WORRY ABOUT JESUS

- Have I met with Jesus today
- Have I praised Jesus today
- Have I honored Jesus today
- Have I made my life to worship Jesus today
- Is Jesus pleased with my choices today
- What is it you need to Exchange today?
  - Idolatry for Something Real?
  - Idleness for Something Alive?
  - What does God want you to tear down in order to Really Worship Him?