



Into the Word:

Read Judges 6: 11-18

- a) When we first meet Gideon, he is threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress. To us that may not sound too strange but to the original readers of the story, it was very telling. Winepresses were deep wells, usually cut out of rock, in which the juices from the crushed grapes were trapped. Gideon was in the bottom of one of these wells threshing wheat. Wheat threshing usually took place in the open, on top of a hill, so that the chaff could be blown away. Why does scripture say that Gideon was in the winepress?
- b) What kind of mess was Gideon in? Do you think he felt like there was any way out of this mess for him?
- c) Right in the midst of this mess, while Gideon was hiding, the angel of the Lord shows up and calls him a “mighty warrior”. How do you think Gideon felt at this moment?
- d) Gideon begins asking a series of questions. Look at what he asks. What emotions do you think are going through his head as he asks these?
- e) Notice especially verse 15. How would you describe Gideon’s self esteem?
- f) Notice that the Lord does not get angry or frustrated with Gideon, He just continues to insist that Gideon can do great things and save his people from the Midianites. What does that reveal to you concerning how God feels about us when we question what we can do because of our current circumstances? What did God have in Gideon that Gideon did not have in himself?
- g) Gideon then asks for a series of signs to prove that the angel of the Lord is who He says He is. Long story short, Gideon comes to believe and then God continues to work with him and he does indeed defeat the Midianites. Read the rest of the story in chapters 6 and 7 sometime.

Apply the Word

- a) How often do you find yourself like Gideon at the beginning of this story? He was in a mess. His people were enslaved and oppressed. It was so bad that he was threshing wheat in a pit so that he would not be discovered by the Midianites and possibly be harassed or even killed. What “Midianites” do we face today that make us just want to hide?

- b) You looked at Gideon's response in verse 15 that revealed his low self-esteem. He felt like he could do nothing. He was the least in the most worthless family. His circumstances had beat him down so much that he felt powerless and completely defeated. NOW look at God's response to Gideon's feelings in verse 16. Five simple words:

"I will be with you..."

Many times we find ourselves wrestling with the same thoughts of defeat that we thought we had already beaten. We struggle with feelings that we do not measure up and we listen to lies that we are "less than". But God still answers our doubts just like He did Gideon's. Based on what we read in the story of Gideon, complete these:

- When we see weak, God sees _____.
- When we see defeat, God sees _____.
- When we are filled with disappointment, God gives _____.

- c) Jeremy's bottom line was "Not only will Jesus meet you in your mess, He will transform you through your mess." What does Gideon's transformation from a scared farmer hiding in the bottom of a winepress to a "mighty warrior" who defeated the Midianites tell you about your current situation?

Prayer Time-

Father, help me to see myself through Your eyes. Help me to remember that You are faithful and true and that Your words to Gideon also apply to me. May your greeting to Gideon echo in my ears whenever I feel like the mess I am in is overwhelming: "The Lord is with you... mighty warrior."