

## Gideon – Teaching Notes

(Judges 6:11-18; 6/11/17)

**Introduction:** A key idea in today's Sunday School material is that God has a plan for His people. Prayerfully, we will be challenged to trust and follow God's plan for us.

### **Body:**

#### **Read Judges 6:11-13**

**I. Big Trouble.** The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. Gideon is threshing wheat in a winepress, so the Midianites would not take it. Gideon somewhat challenges the angel's referring to Gideon as a mighty warrior. "If I am a mighty warrior and God is going to do so much for us then why are things so bad in our lives"? is Gideon's attitude.

#### **Applications –**

- **God has a plan.** Notice in vss. 11-12 that an angel is sent to Gideon in his fearful state and talked to him as if he was in his victorious state. First, the word "angel" means messenger. We should be open to God using whomever He chooses as a messenger to us. And we should let God use us to be messengers to others. Second, God can use us in spite of our current situation. We don't have to pretend that we are strong when we are really weak. God has a plan that overrides our current short comings. Third, God sees more than our past and present. God sees our future. We are called to trust God to work things out for our future good. *Let's work on living like we trust God to work things out for our good.* This kind of living includes obedience, expectation, and endurance.

- **Why are things as bad as they are?** Notice in vs. 13 that Gideon talks about being abandoned by God and how challenging his circumstances are. First, we should be honest enough to admit that sometimes our circumstances seem to be out of order for someone who is trying to live for Jesus. There are times when it seems as if God should do more than He is doing. Second, we should be faithful enough to remember that God is present and working things out for our good. Furthermore, there are times when our current situation is connected to our previous sins. *Let's work on trusting God, even when things seem to be so out of order.* This calls for strength to walk by faith, in spite of what we see.

#### **Read Judges 6:14-16**

**II. Weak Tribe.** There is a further exchange between Gideon and the angel. The angel is trying to get Gideon to get ready to go and defeat the Midianites. Gideon is talking about how weak he is.

#### **Applications –**

- **God is able.** Notice in vss. 14-16 that when God is with Gideon, Gideon has nothing to worry about. First, as in the text, we are hopeless, if all we have going for us is our own power and might. Second, we should be so thankful that we have so much more going for us than our own power. When we live in line with God's will, we have the power of God on our side. God is stronger than our biggest enemies. *Let's live like we trust God's ability to take care of us.* This kind of living calls for courage and endurance.

### **Read Judges 6:17-18**

**III. Security Sought.** Gideon asks for a sign to confirm what the angel is talking about. Gideon asks the angel to wait, while he goes and get an animal to sacrifice. The angel agrees to wait.

#### **Applications –**

- **Signs.** Notice in vss. 17-18 that Gideon asks for a sign. First, when God calls you to do something that is very big, it makes sense that you want to make sure that you understand God's will and that God is committed to being with you. Second, as in the background of the text, there are times when God gives us what we ask for. Third, there are many times that God doesn't give us what we ask for. Especially, in these times, we need to rely on prayerfully understanding biblical principles, seeking wise counsel, seeking peaceful conscious, and trying to discern the best way to handle the circumstances that are before us. *Let's work on trusting God's leading us in whatever way He chooses, instead of insisting on the Lord sending us additional signs.*

- **Giving.** Notice in vs. 17 that Gideon is preparing to give an offering. When you are serious about the Lord, it will make you want to give to Him, in proportion to how He has given to you (i.e., tithes and offerings). Passages like Matthew 6:21 teaches that where are treasurers are is also where our hearts are. *Let's live like our hearts are really concerned with knowing and obeying God's will.*

**Conclusion:** Let's work on trusting and following God's plan for us. God has much for those who obey His will.