

"GRASSHOPPER GIDEON"

Date: 2020-10-11AM Context: Lockdown and Sunday Morning - AM GRA PM
Series: _ Title: Grasshopper Gideon
Readings: Jdg6:11-16; Jdg6:25-32 Cited:

1. INTRO TO READINGS

Gideon: 5th Judge of Israel.

Midianites: Bedouin like nomadic tribe that formed coalitions. Were numerous (like locusts) emptied the land. Teamed up with the Amelikites.

Gideon was from the small tribe of Manasseh. Although he appears to have had some noble status and appears to come from a wealthy family - he seems to suffer from a fairly acute lack of self-confidence.

He is visited by the angel of the Lord while he is threshing wheat in a winepress - they had a threshing floor (see vs 37 - he put his fleece there) - but he was hiding in the winepress.

Two readings:

The Angel of the Lord appearing to Gideon.

Gideon makes an offering

God gives him his first task...

2.

3. SERMON

3.1. INTRO - LET'S LOOK AT GIDEON...

It's tricky holding Gideon up as a "hero" because the truth is - he didn't finish very well. But there are some things we can learn from him.

His RESULT was the defeat of the Midianites: an event long remembered in Hebrew history (see Ps 83:9; Isa 9:4; 10:26; Hab 3:7).

3.2. THE INITIAL CALL

1. God's call - reassures and transforms
2. Gideon has theological doubts - God doesn't explain - he sends "Go in the strength you have." We are always part of the answer!
3. Gideon's insecurity: small, small, small. (But his dad seems to be chief of the village)
4. God promises
5. Gideon spontaneously makes a sacrifice in the midst of a famine.

THE FIRST JOB

Getting your house in order

- Steal your father's prize bull

- Pull down his Baal altar and Asherah pole.

- Sacrifice the bull (symbol of Baal) on a fire made with the pole. (Talk about adding insult to injury!!!)

Consequences

1. Town people incensed
(a hint of Gideons low position: the people of the town feel comfortable to demand the life of the son of the "chief")
2. Father wakes up too - Gideon has an ally
3. "Jerub-Baal" Let Baal contend.

THE REST OF THE STORY

We know how the story winds out.

- Gideon asks for more confirmation
- Calls an army
- God shrinks it down to a pathetic size
- They have a major victory over the Midianites.

3.1. SO WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

- God finds us where we are hiding
- He calls strength out of us.
- He will give us confirmation
- We should worship
- He have to courageously get our houses in order and we will find unexpected allies
- We go to war!

3.2. CONCLUSION –

Just as a fish is not free when it leaves the water and a tree is not free when it leaves the soil, we are not free when we leave the Lord. We think we can get away from God and be free but we are just like the fish and trees. Without God we cannot live and exist. We are all just in survival mode, gasping for air until we again bask in the Light and Glory of Christ. We have to have our roots in the Word to get fed, we have to be immersed in the Word to breathe.