

## **“Gideon: The Value of an Open Heart”**

Judges 6-7

### **I. The Setting: The Condition of Israel (6:1-10)**

- A. Israel’s Circumstances (6:1-6): Disobedient, oppressed, \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Israel’s Appeal to God: for \_\_\_\_\_
- C. God’s Explanation (6:7-10): “You have not \_\_\_\_\_ my voice.”

### **II. The Call of Gideon (6:11-16)**

- A. The Greeting (6:11-12)
  - “The LORD is with you”
  - “O mighty man of valor”
- B. Gideon’s first objection: The LORD has \_\_\_\_\_ us  
  
Reply: \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Gideon’s second objection: I’m not qualified  
  
Reply: I will \_\_\_\_\_ you. You will \_\_\_\_\_.

### **III. The Equipping of Gideon**

- A. Gideon’s first request for a sign (6:17-24) (Third objection: How do I know it’s \_\_\_\_\_?)
  - 1. The Meal offered (6:17-19)
  - 2. The Meal “consumed” (6:20-21)
  - 3. Gideon’s new concern (6:22):
  - 4. Conclusion: Gideon at “\_\_\_\_\_” with God (6:23-24)
    - a. What Gideon saw: a “\_\_\_\_\_” of glory
    - b. What Gideon heard: \_\_\_\_\_ of explanation
    - c. What Gideon did: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Gideon’s Preliminary Assignment (6:25-32)
  - 1. The Reasons for the Assignment
    - a. It was \_\_\_\_\_ (6:10, 24)
    - b. It was \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. The Results of Gideon’s obedience
    - a. Proved the truth of the original \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Gave Gideon confidence in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
    - c. Changed his reputation with his \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. Changed his perspective on what was at issue: not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. The Call to Arms (6:33-40)

A. The response of Israel (6:33-35)

B. Gideon's second request for a sign (6:36-40)

1. Factors behind the request

a. Disparity of \_\_\_\_\_ of troops: 135,000 vs. 35,000 (4:1)

b. Disparity of resources: Midianites had \_\_\_\_\_ (7:12)

c. \_\_\_\_\_ of troops

2. The purpose of the request – \_\_\_\_\_ (Maybe give God a chance to \_\_\_\_\_)

3. Was the request appropriate?

a. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:16; Matthew 4:7; 12:38-39; Luke 1:11-20)

b. God did not \_\_\_\_\_ Gideon but acceded to his requests.

#### V. Preparation for Battle (7:1-15)

A. God's preparation of the Army (7:1-8) – he solved the “\_\_\_\_\_” problem.

B. God's preparation of Gideon (7:9-15) – the provision of a third, \_\_\_\_\_ “sign.”

#### VI. Israel's Victory over the Midianites (7:15-25)

#### VII. Summary: Evaluation of Gideon

A. His error: He formed wrong conclusions from accurate but \_\_\_\_\_ information

B. His problem: He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ God.

C. His education: learning to \_\_\_\_\_ by faith.

D. His decision: Who is going to be \_\_\_\_\_?

E. His asset: An \_\_\_\_\_ before God

#### VIII. Points to Ponder

A. When I conclude that I am inadequate to handle the challenges of life on my own, I am seeing \_\_\_\_\_. The person who thinks that he has no need of God is a \_\_\_\_\_. But when I conclude that God's power cannot make up for my inadequacy, I am acting as though my inability \_\_\_\_\_ his ability. This, too, is \_\_\_\_\_.

B. We are expected to respond in faith to God on the basis of the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who have encountered God in the past. But God also demonstrates his reality to us through the provisions he supplies to overcome the “\_\_\_\_\_” in our lives. (This does not mean that all of our “enemies” are \_\_\_\_\_ [Heb. 2:8; 1 Cor. 15:28]; it does mean that God's \_\_\_\_\_ for those enemies will be accomplished. And as that happens, we \_\_\_\_\_ his goodness.)

C. *“If I am to remain faithful to God in the assignments of my life, the influence of the goodness of God must be greater than the influence of difficult circumstances and sinful people.”*

1. God understands our makeup and \_\_\_\_\_ for our weaknesses (Ps.103:13-14)

2. God will do what it takes to \_\_\_\_\_ me for my role in his purposes.

D. God invites us to be his \_\_\_\_\_ in the outworking of his purposes. What we contribute is \_\_\_\_\_, trust, and obedience; what He contributes is . . . \_\_\_\_\_. When we experience “success,” we must not be confused as to the Source of that outcome (2 Cor. 4:6-7).

E. In the end, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God accomplished by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God will prevail. The things that appear overwhelming to us are but a \_\_\_\_\_ to him.