



Life Group Study Notes
"Gideon: It's Not Too Late!"
Ps. James Lowe - July 9, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Did you ever have a hiding place (or an alone place) when you were a child? Where was it?
- Did a bully ever take something away from you that you valued? What was it?
- Who would come to your rescue when you were in need as a child?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Judges 6:1-6a ESV *The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. And Israel was brought very low because of Midian.*

Condition

- We must rightly assess our current condition. Compared to what God wants for us and for our world, we are far from the God-blessed and God-governed life he wants us to enjoy and flourish in. We must not settle for merely achieving and enjoying God's riches in our own lives and families. We must also care enough about our world around us to seek its spiritual, relational, and material welfare too.

Judges 6:6b-10 ESV *And the people of Israel cried out for help to the Lord. When the people of Israel cried out to the Lord on account of the Midianites, the Lord sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery... And I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.' But you have not obeyed my voice."*

Cry Out

- When the pain of our condition reaches a great enough point, we will cry out to the Lord for help and deliverance. We must do this. God responds to cries to him for help. But we must understand that to cry to him for help often means we are also acknowledging our prior disobedience.

Judges 6:12-16 ESV *And the angel of the Lord appeared to (Gideon) and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the Lord is with you, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." And the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."*

Calling

- God wants to remind us of who we are in him, who we are called to become, and what we are called to do. If we will cry out to him, he will speak words of strength, identity, and purpose to us. We must embrace his truth about us and his calling over our lives. It is part of our proper response to him and is a first step in our deliverance.

Judges 6:25-27 ESV *That night the Lord said to him, "Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down." So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.*

Confront

- We must walk out our identity and calling by confronting those things in our lives which hinder and even destroy us. We cannot have partnership with the sinful values and ways of the world and also walk with God into his calling for our lives. We must draw courage from God's promise that he will be with us.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What things in your life or the lives of others should provoke you to cry out to God?
- Why is knowing and embracing our identity in Christ and our calling so important?
- What things do you need to confront in your own life?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Call upon God for his help and deliverance for yourself and/or others.
- Ask God for greater revelation and understanding regarding your identity in Christ and your calling.
- Ask God for clarity to know what to confront in your own life and for strength and wisdom to do so.