

A dramatic landscape photograph. The sky is filled with bright, hazy light, possibly from a low sun or moon, creating a soft, ethereal glow. The foreground is dark and silhouetted, showing a line of trees and bushes. The overall mood is mysterious and atmospheric.

Gideon

Judges 6:1-40, Judges 7:1-25

Gideon's Fear

- **The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and for seven years He gave them into the hands of the Midianites.**
- **The Midianites were like a swarm of locusts consuming everything in their path.**
- **The Midianites so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.**
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- **An angel visited Gideon while he was threshing wheat in a winepress.**
- **Gideon was hiding in an enclosed place called a winepress because he was fearful of the Midianites.**

Gideon's Complaint

- **The angel of the Lord called Gideon a mighty warrior.**
- **Gideon ignored the mighty warrior comment and started complaining.**
- **God had not abandoned Israel, but Israel had abandoned God.**
- **God is here more in the bad times because that is where He is able to demonstrate His glory and power.**
- **God is more serious about healing our heart situation than our bank account.**

Gideon's Excuses

- Gideon tried to excuse himself by saying he was the least of the least.
- Just as God saw Gideon as a mighty warrior, He sees us as mighty warriors, too.
- Gideon asked the angel for a sign to prove that he was really God's messenger.
- Gideon knew a sinful person, standing in the presence of a holy God, could not last long.
- Gideon built an altar and named the place *The Lord is Peace* because it is at that place where he received the peace of God, Who promised He would not destroy him.

Gideon's First Assignment

- Gideon was instructed to tear down the altars to Baal that his father built.
- The people had claimed allegiance to the Jewish God, but they had fallen into idol worship.
- Gideon tore the alters down, but he did it under the cover of night.
- When the people discovered Gideon had destroyed their alters, they come to his house where his father told them, "If Baal is really a god, let him contend for himself."
- Gideon wore the accusations of the people as a badge of honor, because he was someone who was willing to contend with Baal.
- Gideon understood that this was not just any battle but a spiritual battle.

Testing God

- **Gideon asked God to provide another sign using a fleece.**
- **Gideon decided he needed a second sign using the fleece.**
- **Today, Christians still throw out fleeces for God to help them make tough decisions.**
- **When God brings in a specific deliverer to do a specific act, He is willing to let that person put out a fleece to confirm that calling.**
- **If you do put out a fleece, keep in mind that the sign received will never contradict the Word of God.**

Gideon's Victory

- **God allowed these signs because He expected something more out of Gideon, i.e. He expected him to step out further in faith.**
- **After Gideon gathered his army, God told him that he had too many troops.**
- **God narrowed Gideon's army down to 300 men.**
- **Instead of waiting for Gideon to ask for a sign, God told him to sneak into the Midianite's camp and listen to their conversations.**
- **Gideon had victory over the Midianites where the odds were 450:1, which demonstrated that he could not have done it without the power of God being behind him.**

Conclusion

- **God can use anybody.**
- **Just as the angel saw Gideon as a mighty warrior, God sees each one of us as a mighty warrior.**
- **Before we can go out into the world to take battle, we must start in our own house and look for things that may be idols.**
- **God is going to give you the faith you need when you need it.**
- **No matter how bad the situation, no matter how bad things get in the world, God is with us; God will not abandon us.**
- **Nothing can separate you from the love of God through Christ Jesus.**