

“Gideon, Part 1”

Sermon Notes

- ▶ **If Judges 2 gave us a birds eye view of the Caananization of Israel, Judges 6 provides us with a close up view of the same process. Gideon and his brothers in Manasseh had . . .**

- o ... forgotten the LORD who had saved them (vv. 1-10),

- o ... forsaken the LORD who loves them (vv. 11-27),

- o ... and had fled for protection to another god (vv. 28-34).

But God condescended to be fleeced by Gideon (vv 36-40).

Next Week: “Gideon, Part 2” – Judges 7:1-8:32

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of Feb 12-18

Context

The narrative about Gideon follows the narrative of Deborah and Barak (Judges 4:1-5:31).

1. Compare the situation in Judges 6 with that in Judges 4.
 - a. How was the situation similar and how was it different? Who were the oppressors in Judges 4? (Judges 4:2) In Judges 6? (Judges 6:1-3).
 - b. An unlikely heroine in Judges 4-5 is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. How are the Kenites related to the Israelites? (See Judges 4:11 and Num 10:29).
2. Gideon is a reluctant leader (Judges 6:15). Do the previous judges exhibit reluctance to lead? (Judges 4:8) Do you recall another reluctant Israelite leader? (Ex 4:10) Do you think a connection is being made here? Why or why not?
3. Should the Israelites have expected oppression when they strayed from the worship of Yahweh? (See Deut 31:14-18, Joshua 24:14-20, Judges 2:1-3)
4. Compare the rebuke given in Judges 6:7-10 with the rebuke given in Judges 2:1-4. Is there a similar figure in Judges 4?

Observation

1. Read Judges 6:2-5. What is added to this narrative when verses 1 and 6 are included?
2. Compare this narrative with Judges 2:11-18)? Does the narrative follow the established pattern?
3. Compare the narrative of the raising up of Gideon (Judges 6:11-24) with the raising up of Othniel (Judges 2:7-9), Ehud (Judges 2:12-15) and Barak (Judges 4:1-9). How is it similar? How is it different?

Meaning

1. Is there a problem with Gideon's response to the angel of the Lord in Judges 6:13? Who is to blame for the troubles Gideon is experiencing?
2. What do Gideon's repeated demands for a sign say about his faith? (Judges 6:17, 36-40, see Deut 6:16; Mark 8:11)
3. What is the significance the the cult site to Baal in Ophrah? (Judges 6:25-32, see Ex 20:1-3; Deut 6:4). What is the significance of tearing down the altar and offering a sacrifice to Yahweh burned on the wood of the former Asherah pole? (Judges 6:27, see 1 Kings 18).

4. What does the incident with the fleece tell us about the faithfulness of God? (Judges 6:36-40). What does it tell us about the faithfulness of Gideon?

Application

1. The time of the Judges was a time of national apostasy in Israel. Is this in any way similar to the situation that we are facing today?
 - a. The Israelites responded with cries for help, but not with repentance. Do we respond similarly?
 - b. Consider suffering you have faced in the past few years. Do you sometimes feel that God is no longer there?
 - c. Do we turn to God for rescue in time of trouble, or do we look for solutions that are no different from those pursued by our unbelieving neighbors?
2. How does our Savior compare with the reluctant Gideon?
3. Do we sometimes put our Lord to the test, seeking confirmation of the concern he has already shown for us?