

What It Means To Follow Jesus – Part 3 “BEING USABLE BY GOD”

Judges 6-7

“The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.” When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, ‘The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.’” 6:11-12

1. GOD'S AFFIRMATION: He Will Encourage Me 6:11-16

Gideon's Reaction:

“‘But sir,’ Gideon replied, ‘if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.’” 6:13

“‘But Lord,’ Gideon asked, ‘how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.’” 6:15

God's Response:

“The Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?’ . . . The Lord answered, ‘I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.’” 6:14, 16

2. GOD'S REVELATION: He Will Meet Me 6:17-24

“Gideon replied, ‘If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.’ And the Lord said, ‘I will wait until you return.’” 6:17-18

“When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, ‘Ah, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!’ But the Lord said to him, ‘Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.’ So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord is Peace. To this day it stands.” 6:22-24

The Altar: symbol of personal commitment

3. GIDEON'S CONFRONTATION: God Will Test Me 6:25-32

3 Ways God May Test You

- **Spiritually** - “That same night the Lord said to him, ‘Take the second bull from your father’s herd, . . . Tear down your father’s altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord your God on the top of this bluff.’” 6:25-26
- **Emotionally** – “‘Tear down your father’s altar’” . . . “he was afraid of his family. . . he did it at night rather than in the daytime.” 6:25, 27
- **Physically** - “In the morning when the men of the town got up . . . they asked each other, ‘Who did this?’ . . . they were told, ‘Gideon son of Joash did it.’ The men of the town demanded of Joash, ‘Bring out your son. He must die. . .’” 6:28-31

4. GIDEON'S TRANSFORMATION: God Will Empower Me

“Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon” v. 34