



A Mighty Man of Valor

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Sermon

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About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.

Summary

Through the passage on Gideon we find some important revelations, including the power of God's Word to transform us. We also find a warning that we need to take to heart.

Scripture References

Judges 6:11-14

Psalms 37:4-5

Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalms 37:23

Judges 6:36-37



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Sermon Notes

Who we are is not who we always appear to be. Who we are is who God has declared we should be. The question is are we walking and acting according to His description or one provided by others?

Judges 6:11-12

- 11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.
- 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor.

Most of us were taught the story of Gideon in Sunday school when we were children. It is a great story of God's power and one man's obedience. It is a story where we find significant truths and traps.

I have heard some make a big deal out of the fact that Gideon was hiding from the Midianites so that he could thresh some wheat, as if that defined him as a coward. In fact we know nothing about his character prior to that event, because the Word does not provide that information.

We do know that Gideon was living in a land occupied by the Midianites. They would come and take what they wanted from the children of Israel because they controlled the land; they ruled. It was a reasonable thing for Gideon to hide the fact that he was threshing wheat.

He had gathered what he could of his harvest and was threshing it in secret, so that he would have food for his family.

While Gideon is threshing the wheat God sends him a message, an assignment. In God's message He declares who Gideon was. God did not ask him why he was threshing wheat in secret. God simply declared who Gideon was and what he would do.

It does not matter what he might have been prior to that point, what matters is that God spoke and Gideon became what God spoke.

Isaiah 55:10-11

- 10 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not there, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
- 11 So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

God's Word has all that is required to transform a reality into what God requires. God's Word contains the power, authority and substance required to complete its assignment. When God speaks, reality changes. Reality must conform to His Word, not the other way around.

When God sent His Word to Gideon via His Angel, that Word had the power and authority to change Gideon's and Israel's reality.

Consider the statement: "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor." The most powerful being in the universe told Gideon, I am with you. God also declared him to be a mighty man of valor. Not a coward. Not an average man. A mighty man of valor.



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If the LORD is with you, does it matter who is against you?

If Jesus Christ is your LORD and SAVIOR today, then you are in a better position than Gideon was. Not only is the LORD with you, but He calls you His child! You have been adopted into His family.

If you are His Child, what won't He do to protect you? What won't He do to provide for you? There is nothing in all of the Universe that can stop God. There is nothing in all of the Universe that can prevent God from helping you. That is except you. You can limit God, just as the people of Israel did. Your words, your lack of trust in Him, can limit God.

When God spoke to Gideon He defined who and what Gideon was. Again, it did not matter what kind of a person he was before that moment. God spoke and changed his reality.

"The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor."

Gideon's response to the WORD of the LORD was to question God's statement and to make an accusation against God. Not a great way to respond to God! His response did show his lack of understanding.

Judges 6:13

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where are all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

The reality was, Israel had turned their backs on God. Israel had forsaken God, not the other way around. Israel had begun to worship idols again. Israel suffered the fruit of their own actions.

God had told them through Moses, if you do the things He said then you will be blessed. If you don't then you will be cursed. If you serve Him, then you are blessed. If not, then you are cursed.

Note, God did not say, I am with Israel. He said, to Gideon, I am with you.

How often do we, as believers, blame the LORD when bad things happen? Religion and the world are always quick to blame God for any negative circumstance.

If God tells you not to do something and you do it anyways, then the fruit of your actions are a result of your choices, not God's punishment. Our choices and actions generate fruit in our lives and the lives of those around us, for good or bad.

{Side Note:

Jesus clearly defined who is responsible for negative circumstances in our lives.

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Religion blames God and puts believers down. They declare God is punishing you so that you must have sin. Their words drive wedges between believers and God.}



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Judges 6:14

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this your might, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent you?

God did not even acknowledge Gideon's doubt and accusation. He simply reaffirmed His Word.

If you read on in this chapter you will see that Gideon goes and prepares an a meal for the Angel. The Angel touches his staff to the meal that was placed on a rock as an offering and fire consumes it. At that point the Angel disappears.

Gideon's response to realizing that he had been talking with an Angel of the LORD, declares his lack of faith in what the LORD had just said and his lack of understanding.

Judges 6:22-23

22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

Why would he need to fear dying if the LORD had just said that Gideon would deliver Israel?

It would have been rather odd for God to say, you will deliver Israel in one breath and then declare, my mistake, you just saw the angel that I sent to deliver my message to you so now I have to kill you! I better find a different way to communicate with the next guy. It makes you wonder at times about their response to God; not that we are much better.

Judges 6:36-37

36 And Gideon said unto God, If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said,

37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside it, then shall I know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.

Did not God tell him that he would deliver Israel? Why then did he need confirmation? Gideon's lack of relationship with God and his lack of understanding of God's ways and character, drives him to tests God's Word.

Note that the LORD does not get angry with Gideon's for his lack of faith, nor for his desiring confirmation. God knew where Gideon was in terms of his faith and understanding. Gideon was not rejecting the WORD, he was just seeking confirmation.

God has no problem with you putting fleeces before Him when you are seeking confirmation for something. In fact there are times that it is good to seek confirmation. This is specially true when our hearts are involved and we want to make sure that we are doing His will.

{Rabbit Trail

In 2001 we were considering a move to either Hawaii or Texas, leaning towards Hawaii. In particular, we were considering Oahu or Maui because it fit best with my business. The LORD directed me to go to the Big Island, Hawaii, not Oahu. I read a bible study regarding Isaiah 58 during the trip, entitled "the release of the Davidic Anointing" that had been sent to me the day before I left. I had no idea why God wanted me to go to Kona, but I obeyed. On the second day He directed me to drive north. At mile marker 58 was the name Isaiah written in stone on the side of the road. The mile marker turned out to be mile 5 kilometer 8, but was listed as 58. I did not want to make more out of this that I should, so I asked the



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LORD to have my wife say exactly "Isaiah written in stone on the side of the road" we I called her later that day if He wanted us to move there. I asked that because it was something I wanted, but I wanted to do what He wanted more. I did not mention anything about what I saw when we spoke. At one point she declared that exact phrase. After I got home I explained the significance of what she had said. Three months later we moved to the Big Island. The fleece was an important confirmation.}

God does desire that our relationship with Him reaches the point that we will know His voice and trust in Him explicitly. He desires that we get to the point where we know His voice and obey without question.

We all can reach the point in our relationship with God where we are also trusting ourselves to hear Him correctly, and trusting God to make sure that we do hear Him right.

Again, if our desire is to do His will, and we are seeking His direction, He will make sure that we hear His instructions.

Psalms 37:4-5

- 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD; and he shall give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalms 37:23

- 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way.

God, promises to fulfill your desires. That said, as you build your relationship with Him, then He causes your desires to line up with His desires for you. He then fulfills those desires.

God will make sure your steps to ensure that you arrive where and when you need to. God will order your steps to enable you to do His will, if that is what you seek. You can trust God to make it clear when you get off the path that He has for you.

Believers typically assume that they are at a red light until God shows them a green light. You should assume that you are at a green light and trust Him to show you the red one when necessary. Trust Him to confirm for you the what and when. If you have something that He has put on your heart to do, then do it. There are times when it is a timing issue, but we trust to confirm the timing as well.

The fact is, if God desires you to hear something then He will make sure that you get the message. If your desire is to walk in obedience then you can trust Him to make sure that you hear His instructions.

One of the other important messages of the story of Gideon, we need to take to heart. Gideon created an ephod after God gave him the victory. That ephod later became a stumbling block to Gideon, his family and the children of Israel.

There was nothing about the ephod that was wrong in itself. What became wrong was what it became for Gideon, his family and the children of Israel. It became an idol that was worshiped instead on God who gave the victory.

You might think how does that relate to me? Simply put, our successes can become idols if we are not careful. If we focus too much attention on our successes doing God will then that can become a stumbling block to us.



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Christians can easily become full of pride over what God did through them if they are not careful. When the heart moves from a desire to glorify God for what He did through us, to what we did, then we enter sin.

Sometime Christians also come to believe that they are more righteous because God did something through them or because some manifestations of the Holy Spirit that have occurred with them. If the purpose of our testimony switches from giving God the glory to making ourselves more important in the eyes of others then we are walking in pride.

If we seek a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to show off or because we believe that it makes us look more spiritual then we are walking in foolishness and pride. If that describes you then you need to repent and allow God to cleanse your heart.

I encourage you to take a fresh look the story of Gideon to see what else God will show you.