



LET'S GO DEEPER

SERMON NOTES – Let me show you – November 24 – Pastor Peter

Judges 7:15-21

“When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship before the Lord. Then he returned to the Israelite camp and shouted, ‘Get up! For the Lord has given you victory over the Midianite hordes!’ He divided the 300 men into three groups and gave each man a ram’s horn and a clay jar with a torch in it. Then he said to them, ‘Keep your eyes on me. When I come to the edge of the camp, do just as I do. As soon as I and those with me blow the rams’ horns, blow your horns, too, all around the entire camp, and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon!’” It was just after midnight, after the changing of the guard, when Gideon and the 100 men with him reached the edge of the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew the rams’ horns and broke their clay jars. Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands, and they all shouted, ‘A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!’ Each man stood at his position around the camp and watched as all the Midianites rushed around in a panic, shouting as they ran to escape.”

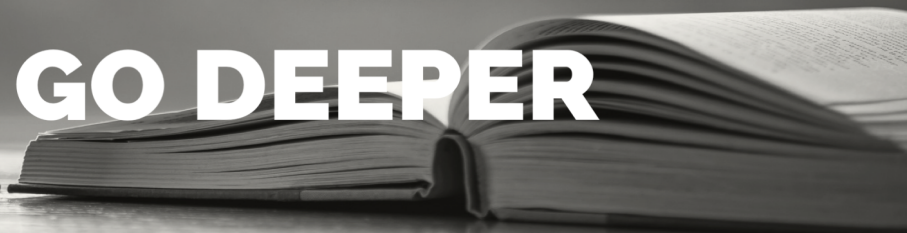
1. God Uses Weak Things

Gideon is in a literal hole in the ground when this happens.

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Gideon self-perception?

2. Was his self-perception the same perception God had of him?



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None of us are perfect, we're all broken to some degree, but God sees our potential. And God actually values our inherent weakness.

The Apostle Paul complains about his own weakness. Three times he asks, 'God, please take away my weakness.' Here's God's answer.

2 Corinthians 12:9 "Each time He said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

God's power works best when we're weak because then it's really clear that it's God who does the work and not us.

So how does insecure Gideon overcome his weakness?

Judges 6:34 "Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon,..."

Gideon is able to face this challenge because the anointing and presence of God's Spirit is upon him.

Zech. 4:6 "It's not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."

QUESTIONS:

5. Why did God reduce the number of people to 300?

6. Did the 300 had to fight? Why?

7. Is God limited by what we consider possible?



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2. God Uses Unusual Things

Gideon finally gets his head around the fact that God is going to use him and help him realize his potential. He makes himself available.

In 1 Samuel 3, God calls Samuel.

1 Sam. 3:9,10 “So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’ So Samuel went back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel replied, Speak, your servant is listening.”

It’s all about availability and presence.

Judges 7:2,3 “The Lord said to Gideon, ‘You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to Me that they saved themselves by their own strength. Therefore, tell the people, ‘Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.’ So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight.”

22,000 people leave and only 10,000 people stay. The odds are terrible. But God’s not done doing unusual things yet.

Judges 7:4 “But the Lord told Gideon, ‘There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not.’”

QUESTIONS:

8. How is this important for us to understand?

9. What was the result of Gideon’s obedience?



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ACTION STEPS:

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