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.

1.	What was
Gi	deon self-
pe	rception?

2.	Wa	s h	is	self-	
pe	erce	ptic	n t	the	
sa	me	per	се	ption	
G	nd h	ad	of	him?)

Judges 6:11,12 "Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"

He's not acting like a hero. So, he pushes back. Judges 6:13 "'Sir,' Gideon replied, 'if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

Judges 6:14 "Then the Lord turned to him and said, 'Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

'Go with the strength you have.'

This is such a powerful spiritual truth. God believes in us. And God doesn't just see who we are, He sees who we can be. God sees how mighty we are because the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in us.

But Gideon isn't done resisting.

Judges 6:15 " 'But Lord,' Gideon replied, 'how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

3. Why do you	
think God chose	,
Gideon for such	
important task?	

4.	What enabled
Gio	deon to take on
the	task God
ael	and him to do?

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."

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?

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."

8.	How is this	
im	portant for us	to
un	derstand?	

9.	What was the
res	ult of Gideon's
obe	edience?

God says, 'The men who kneel down and drink right
out of the spring, put into one group.' 'The men who
scoop water into their hand and lap the water like a
dog laps water out of a bowl, put into another group.'

There are 9700 who drink right from the spring. There are 300 who drink like dogs.

Judges 7:7 "The Lord told Gideon, 'With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."

It's strange and it doesn't make sense. But sometimes, God uses unusual things.

To our natural thinking, sometimes what God does and what God asks and what God uses doesn't make sense. But when we trust the God who's asking, we can then step out in faith and do what He asks.

3. God Does Great Things

Gideon does what God asks and God does great things.

Judges 8:28 "That is the story of how the people of Israel defeated Midian, which never recovered."

It seems impossible, but God does something great. Our God is the God of the impossible.

10	What is
imp	ossible for
God	?

Putting it all together (Application)

- What is weak? God uses what we consider weak to show us he is real. He is faithful. He is almighty. There is nothing impossible for him. Weak is not a word God uses lightly. He loves showing his faithfulness to us through his power because it is easier for us to believe if we see first. But he does it in a way that is unexpected to us because in God's ways, in order to see first you have to believe. Just as Gideon believed even though everything in front of him was telling him he was not going to make it. Logic and rationale go out of the window. What is logic for us does not limit God's power. He does what he wants, when he wants and with who he wants. What you may consider too little or weak can be used by God. God's power don't lie on the capacity of the things he may use but on his power itself.
- 2. God uses unusual things. His thoughts are not our thoughts, and his ways are not our ways. His methods are not we could consider usual. He is not limited by our rationale. He uses what we may consider unusual things to do miraculous things.
- 3. We have an awesome God. He used Gideon to show his power. He used Gideon to answer for the prayer of his people. Our God does great things when we believe in him and obey him, just like Gideon. Let's trust him and expect for great things.



ACTION STEPS:	