

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, May 29, 2016
“Unsung Heroes: Great Lessons From the Lesser Known ~
Gideon: A Life of Significance”
Judges 6:1-16

Scripture is full of stories of _____ lives—unsung heroes whose actions and sacrifices failed to win them worldly _____. Yet, these great lives reveal significant people who God was able to _____, and whose lives counted for something great.

Despite what the world tells us, we don’t need to be a powerful, prominent, or rich to have _____. _____ God, even in the small things, can impact history in a powerful way!

Glitz and glamour may be all the rage in our culture, however, in the kingdom of God, _____ is far more important than prominence and _____ more important than quantity

“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

The Book of Judges records a cycle of _____ that spanned 300 years.

“The Israelites did evil in the Lord’s sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys.” (Judges 6:1-4)

When we think of a hero, we usually think of _____, strength, intellect, and _____.

Gideon was an _____ guy with no political ambitions or dreams of becoming a military leader. Yet God had different and _____ plans for his life.

3 LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF GIDEON

Lesson #1: If we want to live a life of significance, we need to discover our God-given _____.

“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!’” (Judges 6:11-12)

It all starts with _____—we have to know who we are before we can do what God created us to do.

2 WAYS TO DETERMINE OUR IDENTITY

- We can look at our _____.

Gideon in the winepress is picture of someone who has lost site of his _____, and has allowed his _____ to determine his identity.

Gideon wasn’t living up to his God-given identity or potential—his _____ was to be a Judge over Israel, yet he was hiding in fear.

Can you think of time in your life, when you pulled a Gideon and hid?

If we let our circumstances to tell us who we are, we’ll be _____ because our circumstances are constantly _____.

No matter how hard we try, we can’t _____ from God. No matter where we run or where we hide, God always _____!

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?” (Psalm 139:7)

- **We can listen to what _____ says about us.**

Gideon had a choice—he could either trust his own _____ or he could trust God. He could allow his circumstances to define him or he could let God define him

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God sees past Gideon’s _____; past his fear and uncertainty; past what the world sees, to Gideon’s _____—to his _____; to who he truly is; to what He wants to do in and through his life

As long as you let your identity be determined by your circumstances, you’ll never live up to your full _____. It can only be found in God’s view of you.

“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Lesson #2: If we want to live a life of significance, we have to be willing to _____.

“‘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.’ Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!’” (Judges 6:13-14)

Gideon gets so caught up in his circumstances; in what’s _____; in what he doesn’t have—that he becomes _____ and is unable to act. And so, he responds to the angel’s greeting by letting _____ have it!

In his frustration and hopelessness, Gideon completely misses the fact that God wants to use him to be the _____ to everything he’s complaining about.

Two things contributed to Gideon’s cowardice: _____ and _____.

Have you ever focused on what you didn’t have and become so paralyzed you were unable to act?

Instead of waiting for the strength we don’t have, we need to go in the strength we do _____.

“‘Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!’” (Judges 6:14)

If we had everything we needed, it wouldn’t be _____, it would be _____.

God is much more concerned about our _____—about using us, in spite of what we don’t have—than giving us everything we think we need.

“So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Lesson #3: If we want to live a life of significance, we have to let God use our _____ for His glory.

“‘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!’ The Lord said to him, ‘I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.’” (Judges 6:15-16)

Gideon was quick to respond to the angel that he didn’t think he had what it _____ to be a leader, let alone a general who could lead the Israelite army in a battle against their enemies.

Gideon was very aware of his _____. So much so, that he was _____ by them.

What he wasn’t aware of, was how God could _____ his weaknesses not only to bring victory, but also for His _____.

Weakness = any place in our lives where it’s evident that we don’t have the _____ to do what God has called us to do.

“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...For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Our strengths tend to _____ us away from God; however, our weaknesses draw us _____ His strength. No matter how much or how little we think we have, nothing can compare to God’s _____.

What weakness in you might God be able use for His glory?

“The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31)

The story of Gideon is all about God making a _____ of the most unlikely person.



And God promises to do the _____ thing for us!