

Series: Lessons From the Lives of the Judges

# THE CULTIVATION OF GIDEON

## JUDGES 6:25-32

Text:

Introduction:

Last week, we met a man named Gideon. He was the man God chose to deliver Israel from the bondage of their enemies.

Gideon does not appear to be a likely candidate to be the deliverer of the nation. When Gideon appears, he is hiding from the Midianites to prevent them from taking the small amount of grain he possesses.

When the Lord comes to Gideon, He tells him that he is to be the deliverer of Israel. Gideon, like most people, immediately tells God why He is wrong. After losing the argument with Deity, Gideon finds himself worshipping the Lord and waiting for his orders.

As we continue to look at the story of Gideon, we will watch as the Lord prepares him for the mission that lies ahead. God brings Gideon along in a series of small, specific steps that will lead to Gideon achieving big things for the glory of God.

In this passage we will watch Gideon take his first step of faith. We will watch him take a stand against false the false religion that held his village and his family in spiritual bondage.

Notice:

## **1. THE COMMAND GOD DELIVERS (VS. 25-26)**

### ***Judges 6:25-26***

*<sup>25</sup> And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:<sup>26</sup> And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.*

#### **A. It Was a Specific Command**

When God speaks to Gideon, it is in the same night that He called him. When God's puts His hand on a life, He does not waste valuable time. He calls people for specific tasks at specific times. When God calls, He commissions and He sends the called ones out to do His will.

The Lord's command to Gideon is very specific.

Gideon is to take that young bull and he is to use it pull down his father's altar to Baal. He is also to cut down the "grove" that stands by the altar.

God's command was very specific. He was to tear down the altar and then he was to build a new altar on top of the rock mentioned in verses 20-21.

### B. It Was a Spiritual Command

God had two purposes in issuing this command to Gideon. First, God intended to demonstrate His superiority over Baal. Gideon would topple Baal's altar and Baal would be powerless to stop it from happening. Second, God wanted Gideon to know that God would be with him, regardless of the opposition he faced. This was a small step for Gideon, but it proved to him that God would never forsake him when he was doing the Lord's will.

### C. It was a Simple Command

This was a command for Gideon to do something that he could do. This was a baby step to prepare him for what he could not do.

Gideon had everything he needed to do what God was telling him to do; he merely had to do it. All he had to do was follow God by faith. God was using this simple command to prepare Gideon for something far more

difficult. God was preparing Gideon to do things that were impossible. Gideon would have never believed God for the impossible, had he not seen the Lord first work in the possible.

Not only do we see the Command that God Delivered but also:

## **2. THE COMPLIANCE GIDEON DISPLAYS (VS. 27)**

### ***Judges 6:27***

*<sup>27</sup> Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.*

Note:

#### A. Gideon's Faith On Display

Without hesitation, Gideon did just as he was told to do. He got ten of his servants to help him and he tore down the altar to Baal and he cut down the grove. It was swift and complete obedience to the command of the Lord.

Would to God we were that willing and ready to do the Lord's will. Would to God that we would jump when He

calls and do exactly what He tells us to do without hesitation.

## B. Gideon's Fear On Display

While Gideon demonstrated faith in doing what the Lord commanded; he demonstrated fear in that he did what he did at night. He tried to hide his obedience to the Lord under the cover of darkness.

He could have done it in the day.

Gideon knew that his father, his brothers and the rest of the village would be angry with him for tearing down the altar to Baal. He knew they would probably try to kill him for it. Gideon had faith, but it was small. He allowed fear to control his actions.

Notice not only the Command God Delivered and the Compliance Gideon Displays but also

## **3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF GIDEON DEEDS**

Gideon's actions caused uproar in the community. God was pleased by what Gideon did, but He was the only one! We need to be aware that there will be consequences for our actions.

When we serve the Lord faithfully and obediently, He will be glorified, but those around us, who have not

received the same call we have received, will not understand what we are doing. Let's take a brief look at the consequences Gideon faced.

#### A. The Enmity of the Locals (vs. 28-30)

##### ***Judges 6:28-30***

*<sup>28</sup> And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. <sup>29</sup>*

*And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. <sup>30</sup> Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.*

When the men of the village saw that the altar had been destroyed, they demanded to know who had done it. It wasn't long until they knew that Gideon had destroyed the altar and the grove. When they found out that Gideon had done this, they went to Gideon's father and demanded that Gideon be put to death for daring to defy Baal.

## B. The Enslavement of His Loved Ones (vs. 31-32)

### **Judges 6:31-32**

*<sup>31</sup> And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar. <sup>32</sup> Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.*

Gideon's father responds to the attack against his son. I love his response to these men. He basically says, "Will you intercede for Baal? Will you be his savior? If you are still foolish enough to serve Baal, you should be stoned to death as the Law commands! If Baal is really a god, let him come to his own defense. If Baal is real, he shouldn't need you to help him."

## C. The Experience He Lacked (vs. 27-32)

### **Judges 6:27-32**

*<sup>27</sup> Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. <sup>28</sup> And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second*

*bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.<sup>29</sup> And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.<sup>30</sup> Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.<sup>31</sup> And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.<sup>32</sup> Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.*

One of the greatest benefits of this entire event was in the life of Gideon. All Gideon knew was that the Lord was calling him to do a great work. He was afraid and he was unsure how things would work out. As Gideon followed the Lord in this matter, he learned that God would walk with him, protect him and give him victory. That information would serve him well as the tasks he would be called to do grew larger.

Gideon learned on that day that God was able. He learned that God was more powerful than the false gods of the pagans. He learned that God was greater than the enemy. He learned that God would keep His Word and that He would protect His servants. That was valuable information for a future deliverer like Gideon.



Close:

God worked in Gideon's life to train him for a huge task. God cultivated Gideon so that God could use Gideon for His glory.

Is there some idol in your life that needs to be torn down before God can use you like He wants to? Is there some fear that holds you back? Are you willing and available to the Lord for His use? Is He speaking to you about His plan for your life?

Place your will, your life, your all on this altar and watch God use you in a great way!