

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. In chapter 6, verse 17, why was it necessary for Gideon to know without a doubt that it was the Lord instructing him? How does this relate to each of us in our Christian walk of life?
2. God's first instructions to Gideon were to destroy the idols. Why?
3. How can we "take a stand for Christ" today?
4. After seeing the miracle of the wet fleece, why did Gideon ask for another miracle?
5. Was Gideon really testing God, or was he simply asking God for more encouragement?
6. Is the "putting out a fleece" or asking the Lord for a sign, acceptable today or is it really an indication of unbelief?
7. Should we seek signs from God today or should we only act in faith?

### SUMMARY:

The Children of Israel were delivered into the hand of the Midianites by God because of the evil they did in turning to idol worship. God's concern for them caused Him to deliver them through Gideon. In delivering them he taught them to trust in Him. The idols were destroyed by Gideon to remove any doubt of whom Gideon served. The army was reduced to a very small number in comparison to the Midianites to remove any possibility of the people attributing victory to their own strength and power. Finally, for weapons Gideon gave each a trumpet, pitcher and lamp to meet the enemy. The victory was complete and all could see the mighty hand of God in it. Truly "God had chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are Mighty." (1 Corinthians 1:27) So it is in our day: God is able to give the victory to those who put no trust in the flesh, but rely on the power of God.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

August 23, 2015

Third Quarter

### GOD'S MAN GIDEON

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Judges 6:11-40; 7:1-23*

**LESSON SETTING:** Israel, after repeated disobedience, is again surrounded by the enemy.

**TIME:** 1256 B.C.

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**I. GOD'S LEADER CALLED.** Judges 6:11-40

- A. God Calls. Genesis 12:1; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 26:6
- B. Convinced by Signs (vs. 17-21; 36-40) 1 Kings 13:3; 2 Kings 20:9; Luke 2:12

**II. GOD'S ARMY CHOSEN.** Judges 7:1-8

- A. Chosen Ones. Matthew 22:14; James 2:5; 1 Peter 2:9-10
- B. Alert Ones. Matthew 25:13; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 5:8
- C. Dedicated Ones. Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:33; Luke 21:34

**III. GOD'S PEOPLE VICTORIOUS.** Judges 7:9-23

- A. Encouragement. Exodus 14:13; Matthew 14:27; Acts 23:11
- B. Aids to Faith. John 1:7; 13:19; 19:35; 20:31
- C. Victorious. Romans 8:35, 37; 2 Timothy 4:7-8

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS.* Zechariah 4:6

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Judges 11:1-33

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** 1 Samuel 12:6-15; Hebrews 13:17

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Early Days in Canaan

**TOPIC:** AN UNAPPRECIATED LEADER

**INTRODUCTION:**

What a parallel Jephthah's life was to Joseph's. Both men were hated by their own brothers and were forced to leave and go to a strange country. How often God takes those whom the world considers of little value and makes mighty vessels of them. He forms these vessels by means of hardships and suffering. It was no simple matter for Jephthah to leave his father's home, but he went and we read he became "a mighty man of valour."

When the children of Ammon made war against Israel and the Gileadites were in desperate need, they turned to the one they had wronged to deliver them. God had provided Joseph to help his brothers during the famine.

Often in our lives we cannot understand the circumstance in which we may find ourselves. But we can well believe God is working within us, shaping us for yet a greater purpose. May He find us ready and prepared for His will.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Prejudice often separates us from the very person and the very thing we need most.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *JUDGE NOT ACCORDING TO THE APPEARANCE, BUT JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT.* John 7:24

Although Jephthah was a valiant man, his brothers scorned him because he was born out of wedlock. Yet when Israel was in danger of defeat at the hands of their enemies, they were quick to seek Jephthah's help. Thus, he who was despised became a mighty leader and deliverer, whose name lived on even to the writings of the apostles. (Hebrews 11:32)

On first thought, we might often form a wrong opinion. Remember Nathaniel, who said, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46) and yet, only moments later was moved to say, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel." (John 1:49) May we always be careful to withhold judgment of people, places and experiences until such time as God, through the Holy Spirit reveals to us the good and the evil.

To judge righteous judgment, we need the Holy Spirit, who will guide us into all truth. (John 16:13)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 24—30**

- M. \*An Unappreciated Leader. Judges 11:1-11
- T. \*A Reasonable Approach. Judges 11:12-24
- W. \*An Unreasonable King. Judges 11:25-33
- T. An Unreasonable Complaint. Judges 12:1-7
- F. Reasoning of a Wise Leader. 1 Samuel 12:6-15
- S. Good from an Unexpected Source. John 1:43-51
- S. Seeing the Other Man's Viewpoint. Acts 15:23-31

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