

Sunday, May 19, 2013 - Bro. Justin Bedingfield

The “Un-God”

Judges 6-7

No matter whether you’re celebrating the milestone of graduation, you have a young family, or if you’re one of our precious senior adults, God has a plan to use you exactly where you are for His glory. Being used of God is why we still have breath. *Whatever your circumstance, please know that – just like Gideon – God uses the unlikely, the undeserving, the underequipped and the unafraid.*

The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey.

For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.

When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.”

-- Judges 6:1-10 ESV

1. GOD USES THE UNLIKELY FOR HIS GLORY (JUDGES 6: 11-16)

A. God has a history of using the unlikely

- *But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...*
--1 Corinthians 1:27 ESV
- *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*
--2 Corinthians 12:10 ESV

*“Faith sees the invisible
(the battle not yet fought)
and does the impossible
(wins the battle not yet won).”*

-- Vance Havner

B. When God says “go” we are no longer unlikely, but are unstoppable

- **“The Lord is with you” (v12)**
- **“Do not I send you?” (v14)**
- **“But I will be with you...” (v16)**

- *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

--(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)

2. GOD USES THE UNDESERVING FOR HIS GLORY

A. God’s commands are enough, but He is gracious to care for and reassure His children.

(Judges 6:17-18; 33-40)

B. God’s knows our finiteness and remembers our perspective.

- *For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

(Psalm 103:14 ESV)

3. GOD USES THE UNDER-EQUIPPED FOR HIS GLORY

A. God is rightfully consumed with his own glory.

(Judges 7:1-3)

B. God is not concerned with a quantity of people but a kind of person.

(Judges 7:4-8)

C. God will sovereignly ordain events in your life to bring Himself glory.

(Judges 7:9-14)

D. God uses His own means to accomplish His own mission.

(Judges 7:15-18)

4. GOD USES THE UNAFRAID FOR HIS GLORY

(Judges 7:19-25 ESV)

“God doesn’t use us because He needs us. He uses us because He loves us.”

--David Platt

- *Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled.*

--Judges 7:21

- *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

--I John 5:4 (ESV)

- *And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets...*

-- Hebrews 11:32

We are unlikely, undeserving, underequipped people... but in Christ we can be unafraid to accomplish great things through Him and for his glory!