

# SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017

## THEME – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL

### UNIT I – CALLED TO BE STRONG

#### “GIDEON, GOD’S CALLED LEADER IN SERIOUS, SINFUL TIMES”

### There is a Gideon in You!

Just an ordinary fellow who after standing in the presence of God is raised up to do extraordinary things.

Sunday School Lesson II – June 11, 2017  
Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III  
Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Judges 6:1-18

Motto Text: Judges 6:12, 14, *“And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour...And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might,*

*and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?”*

Required Reading: Judges 6:1 – 7:25

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Libronix Electronic Library System; Standard Commentary; “Be Delivered”, “Be Holy”, “Be Counted”, “Be Available” and “Be Equipped” by Dr. Warren Wiersbe; Visualized Bible Notes-Tyndale/Wilmington; Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament

#### INTRODUCTION

Beloved, let us examine a second Old Testament leader whom God raised from the ash heap of humanity. The times were extremely challenging. The testimony of Israel, God’s chosen people, was detestable! It was the times of the “Judges,” the leaders who followed the days of Joshua and his cohorts. It was a very sinful time in the lives of God’s Old Testament Covenant Community! Judges 17:6 and 21:25 seem to describe the atmosphere of the times in Israel... *“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”*

According to H. L. Wilmington, “The fruit of Israel’s problem was really twofold. Compromise, Israel was guilty of not doing what God had commanded the nation to do, that is, drive out its enemies (1:21, 22-33; 2:1-5). And Apostasy, Israel was guilty of doing what God had commanded her not to do, that is, worship the gods of her enemies (2:11-13).”

Now the Lord raised 13 Judges in this book who were not really preachers or legal law experts, but were chosen leaders, to lead Israel in doing what they had previously been commanded by God to do... rid the land of its previous occupants, unless the occupants would cause Israel to sin and be chastised by God!

Finally, before we examine our Judge for this week, Wilmington summarizes the book of Judges in four words: “Sin! Israel turns from the living God. Slavery! God allows pagan nations to occupy the land. Supplication! Israel forsakes its sin and prays for deliverance. Salvation! God graciously raises up judges to deliver Israel!”

#### **“Gideon, God’s Called Leader in Serious, Sinful Times”**

#### **Anticipated Power Points:**

- **The Chastening.** Judges 6:1-6a
- **The Crying.** Judges 6:6b-10
- **The Chosen.** Judges 6:11-23
- **The Challenges.** Judges 6:24 – 7:25

#### LESSON EXPOSITION

- I. The Chastening. Judges 6:1-6a (Read Genesis 25:1-4; Exodus 2:15-22; Numbers 25:16-17; Numbers 31:1-20)  
Hebrews 12:6, *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”* The promises of God by Moses in Deuteronomy 28 would literally be fulfilled (Blessings and Curses). God allows the Midianites who were family and former allies of the Israelites to become a tool of chastisement for seven years, literally, “eating them out of house and home.” Genesis 25:1-2

## II. The Crying. Judges 6:6b-10

### A. There was a crying out for help by Israel to God. vs. 6b-7.

Of course, He was their only hope!

### B. There was a crying out by God through His prophet (name unknown) to remind Israel of His faithfulness and their faithlessness! God had been their help and hope but they were acting like their memories were empty!

## III. The Chosen. Judges 6:11-23

God's love for His people is unbelievable: Psalm 103:8-9, "*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.*" In their cry for mercy, He gave them Gideon. Note the relationship of God and His chosen leader in serious, sinful times:

### A. Gideon's fear. vs. 11

Hiding and working in secret to make a living in spite of the Midianites' terror.

### B. God's favor. vs. 12

God's Angel addressed Gideon as a man with great potential "...*mighty man of valor.*" Beloved, when a person responds to God's will, they can reach their divine potential.

### C. Gideon's faithlessness. vs. 13, 15

A sign of doubt and broken fellowship with God. When God's people are not walking in the knowledge of His will, they feel helpless, and they feel God has forsaken them when the opposite is true!

### D. God's faith in Gideon. vs. 14, 16

God can use weak things. (I Corinthians 1:27 "...*God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.*")

### E. Gideon's faith is found. vs. 17-23

"*So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*" Romans 10:17

When Gideon found his floundering faith, he was able to really appreciate the presence, power and Person of God through the Angel of the Lord! Now recognizing he is God's chosen for the task, he prepares to fulfill the challenge even in serious, sinful times. Ephesians 6:10-11 tells us, "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*"

## IV. The Challenges. Judges 6:24 – 7:25

### A. He is challenged to reestablish Jehovah God's worship. Judges 6:24-32

1. Rebuilding an altar to Jehovah. vs. 24

2. Removing the altar to Baal and Asherah the false deities. vs. 25-32

(We are challenged to have no other gods before Jehovah!)

### B. He is challenged to rally Jehovah's people. vs. 33-35

### C. He is challenged to receive Jehovah's signs. vs. 36-40.

(God's long-suffering allowed Gideon to receive two signs that solidified his faith.) Hebrews 11:6 says, "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*"

### D. He is challenged to rebel against Jehovah's enemies. (Read chapter 7.)

In rebelling against Midian, God gave him total victory!

## CLOSING

Beloved, Jehovah God is still looking for leaders who will stand for Him in these serious, sinful times! As you read II Timothy 3:1-5, you will see that the world we live in is a challenge to the Christian. But I can hear the Lord asking believers today what He asked in the day of Isaiah the prophet, "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*" Beloved, will you be that Godly leader in these sinful times who will answer as Isaiah, "*Here am I Lord, send me?*" Thank God that over 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son Jesus into this sinful world to die for sinners like us. "*He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquity. The chastisement of our peace was placed upon Him. And by His stripes we are healed.*" May the Lord help us to be His leaders in these serious, sinful times!

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LOOKING AHEAD:

June 18, 2017

Judges 11:4-11, 29-31

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.