

Lesson Notes:

Courageous Living:

We live in very challenging times. It seems we are continually faced with challenges and uncertainties whether it is in regard to finances, health, or family matters. A close intimate relationship with Jesus and opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit enables us to live fearlessly in these challenging times.

Scriptural Principles

1) Just as the Israelites had lost favor with the Lord sin in our lives can cost us the favor of the Lord as well.

In **Judges 6:1-5** we see that the Israelites had lost favor with the Lord because of their sin. As a result they were continually conquered and tormented by the Midianites.

2) The first step was to get right with the Lord.

In **Judges 6:25-26** we see that Gideon was instructed to make an offering to the Lord; to destroy the idol Baal and to build an altar to worship the Lord. This is an excellent lesson for us. If we are living in fear and we feel we have lost favor with the Lord it is time to get rid of those “things” that are interfering with our relationship to the Lord and comment to him in worship and prayer. In short, get our priorities straight with Christ being the center of our lives.

3) But Gideon was timid and wanted to conceal his devotion to the Lord.

In **Judges 6:27** we see that Gideon did as the angel had instructed him but he did it in the middle of the night and not in broad daylight. He was still afraid of the power of the Midianites and was not ready to fully trust in the Lord. When we reaffirm our commitments to God we need to be prepared to do this publically as it helps to seal the commitment that we have made with the Lord when others witness this in our lives.

4) When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon he was ready to blow the trumpet of the Lord.

In **Judges 6:34** we see that when the spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon he lost his fear and he was blowing the trumpet of the Lord. This is characteristic of ourselves when we allow the presence of the Holy Spirit to enter into our lives and our hearts. Once we are indwelled with the Holy Spirit we are ready to boldly serve the Lord. This is one reason why we need to welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts. It gives us the wisdom and boldness to maximize our service to God.

5) When we are in obedience to God he will work thing out for us in the end.

In **Judges 7:13-14** we see that the Lord causes the enemies of Gideon and the Israelites to turn upon themselves. In **Romans 8:28** Paul tells us that if we have faith and obey we can trust in the Lord that he will make all things come together

for his purpose and for our best interests. Do you have enough faith in our Lord that you are trusting him to direct your path for our own good and his glory?

6) All that was left for Gideon and the Israelites was to take back what the Lord had promised them.

We see in **Judges 7:23-25** that all that was left to do after God had worked in their lives was to follow his direction and they were able to achieve what God wanted for them in their lives. This is true in our lives as well. If we trust Christ as our savior and in times of trouble he will help us to fulfill the purpose that he has for our lives.