

LESSON #5 - DEW OF DESTINY - JUDGES 6: 36-40

COMING TO THE WATERS - Our wonderful Lord has the ability to work through giant floods or spectacular miracles. Sometimes, though, He works with the smallest of signs. In this lesson, God's DEW OF DESTINY sent Gideon to victory against tremendous odds. The Lord can accomplish great things with us, if we are willing to trust Him.

THE PRAYER - Dear Lord, You have given each of us gifts and talents to be used to glorify You and benefit our neighbor. Sometimes we feel that we are too insignificant or small or weak to accomplish anything. Teach us that You have a plan for us, O Lord. This we ask it in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

PARCHED HEARTS - ILLUSTRATION - In Minnesota, I live close to a large river. The old-timers like to tell about a fellow who was spending his first winter in town. One night, just before twilight, he had to cross the ice-covered river. Although he had been assured that the trip would be perfectly safe, he remained terrified that he might fall through. Halfway across, the man dropped to his hands and knees to better distribute the weight. Just before he reached the far bank, he stood up and breathed a sigh of relief. Just then he heard the sound of whistling. The music was made by a man, absolutely calm, driving a sled filled with scrap iron across the ice.

THOUGHT: That fearful fellow was very much like many people today. God assures them that He is with them, and they are secure, but they tremble at every step, feeling that they might break through God's promises at any moment. To combat such a feeling of "doing things by ourselves", scripture tells us that we should trust, and not be afraid. It's easier said than done.

FIRST APPLICATION - Believing God has a purpose specifically for YOU, and will help you, is not a thought that comes easily. That was the case for God's selected judge: Gideon. Gideon ended up a great leader, but he started out reluctantly. When God first came to Gideon and said, "I can use you", Gideon was skeptical. Look at some of the challenges and excuses Gideon places before the Lord.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH - HUMANKIND'S THIRST -

According to Judges 6:

- v. 13 - Does Gideon believe God is with His people? No, he thinks God has deserted them.
- v. 15 - What are two excuses Gideon can't lead?His tribe is the weakest; He is weakest
- v. 17 - Before Gideon will accept God's commission, what does he want?A sign
- v. 27 - After God gives a sign, does Gideon act boldly? No, he works in the safety of night.
- v. 37 - Before Gideon does the next job God has for him, what does he ask? Another sign.
Describe that sign: Gideon wants dew to form on a fleece and not on the ground.
What is the problem?Normally the dew would be on the fleece. It's not a good sign.
- v. 39 - What does Gideon ask now? The fleece be dry and the ground be wet.

THIRST FOR AN ANSWER: Gideon believed that God could help His people. He just didn't think God could use him. Before Gideon could accept the fact that he had been handpicked for the Lord's service, he asked for a number of signs as proof. Gideon is not the first, nor was he the last to believe that God wanted to use him. Take a look at these passages and see who hesitated. Then list how God showed them that He was serious about His request:

2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - DEEP DRINKING

PASSAGE	PERSON	WHAT WAS THEIR "DEW OF DESTINY"
1. Exodus 4: 1-3	Moses	His staff would be turned to a snake
4: 6	Moses	His hand would be made leprous
4: 9	Moses	Water from the Nile would be turned to blood.
2. Luke 1:18-20	Zechariah	He would be silent until John was born.
3. John 20: 25	Thomas	See Jesus' hands/ put his fingers in His side.

QUESTION - Both Gideon, Moses, Zechariah and Thomas were convinced that God could use them. They all responded in a way that accomplished God's will. Not everyone is so eager to listen to the Lord when He calls them. Look at these passages and see who refused, at least initially, to be used by God.

**ISAIAH 55:1 "COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY, COME TO THE WATERS
GROUP BIBLE STUDIES - TEACHER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

PASSAGE

WHO WAS THE RELUCTANT PERSON?

Jonah 1: 3 Jonah heard God's call and ran the other way.
 Luke 22: 3-4 Judas was called by Jesus, but eventually betrayed His Master.
 Acts 8: 18.....Simon was baptized, but then tried to buy God's gifts.

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION - The question that arises is, "Does God still send the DEW OF DESTINY to His people?" Last year there was a minister (not Lutheran) in rural Tennessee who encouraged his people to come forward and be bitten by rattlesnakes. "The rattlesnake is the heart of Satan," he said, "Only those who live with the devil will die from the venom". These people were looking for a special sign, their own DEW OF DESTINY, if you will. At the pastor's invitation, more than 10 people came forward. The good news is only one died....the bad news is, it was the minister. Scripture is quite clear that the Lord has called us to be His people. To those who have heard God's Gospel summons, He has given the instruction to "go, teach, preach and baptize all nations." He wants us to invite people to "come to the waters" where they can drink of the sweet Gospel message. It's sad that so many people are still looking for signs.

QUESTION Why kind of sign might a person ask for in these situations?

SITUATION

SIGN

1. A person who is dying from an illness That God would grant a healing, or tell him why.
2. A church debating whether to buildThat God send every penny without people giving more.
3. Adding on to a schoolA guarantee that the school would continue to grow.
4. Looking for a spouse That God would create someone to fulfill their "wish list" .
5. Increased giving to missions..... That God must give us a raise at work, so we can give extra.

Scripture is quite plain that there are times when there won't be any special DEW OF DESTINY. Look at these passages and see under what circumstances God doesn't give a sign:

1. Mark 8: 11-12 - Why wasn't there a miracle?..... When it's a challenge to Jesus.
2. Luke 23: 8-9 - What did Herod want?Jesus to perform a miracle for his entertainment.
3. Matt 17: 15-20 - What can we do with faith? Anything (if it is not contrary to God's will.)

Christians must know that God does send a DEW OF DESTINY to His people. It doesn't come on a sheep's fleece. Our DEW OF DESTINY arrives in Baptism. In Baptism, a sinful child is made God's child. This holy washing is as much a miracle as anything ancient Gideon encountered. Having received this DEW OF DESTINY, our hesitation should be at an end. We are empowered by God to move forward in faith.

SHARING THE SAV(I)OR (If you have time in your lesson or wish to work at home)

In every congregation there are a great many people who do not understand that God can perform miracles through their simple talents. Compose a list of a few of these people, write down their excuses, and a solution to their hesitation:

NAME	EXCUSE	SOLUTION
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

A FINAL STORY: James R. Scott caused millions of dollars of damage by removing sandbags from a Mississippi River levee. His action closed the only bridge for 100 miles. According to a witness at his trial, he did it to strand his wife in Missouri "so he could have a party at his house."

QUESTIONS: If sin can do great things with a little action, what can God do?GREATER THINGS
 Can little actions make a difference?Absolutely

THANKS FOR THE WATERS - Dear Lord, You can use me. As a sinner I am worthless, but as a forgiven child of faith, You can utilize the gifts and talents You have given me for great purposes. Put aside my hesitation and demand for signs. Allow me to be empowered by faith. In Jesus' Name. Amen.