



Gideon: The Doubtful Deliverer

Every year the Midianites made their annual raid. They would pillage the harvest from the Israelites. They would take their livestock. They would take their food. The Israelites lived under the oppression of the Midianites for seven seasons. Just before the eighth raid from the Midianites God raised up another deliverer. It took some coaxing. Gideon was a fearful man. He was full of doubt. God promised to use Him, but Gideon needed assurances. God's promises were not enough for Him. What stands out against the backdrop of Gideon's doubt is an important lesson about our God. From this Old Testament narrative we see that...

God is gracious to meet man's doubt with His dependability.

Gideon's doubt was evident four times throughout his calling as a judge. We are going to phrase them in the form of questions this morning. We may struggle with the same questions.

Question: Does God even Care about us? (6:12-13)

We here this type of question all the time. "If God is with us, why are all these bad things happening?! - If God is good, why is there bad in this world?! - Where are all those miracles I've heard about?! I've never seen them!" If you are paying attention, you will see that God had already laid out some ways that He confirmed His people.

Answers:

- God chastened His people to show His love. (6:1-6)

Charles Haddon Spurgeon - "The Lord does not allow His children to sin successfully."

Warren Wiersbe - "Obedience to the Lord builds character, but sin destroys destroys character; and God cannot sit idly by and watch His children destroy themselves."

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

- God reminded His people of His works to show His love. (6:7-10)

- God promised to deliver His people to show His love. (6:11-14)

Application Notes: _____

Question: Is God making a _____? (6:14-24)

God was recruiting Gideon to serve Him. Gideon was full of doubt about God's decisions.

Answers:

- When Gideon didn't think he was adequate, God said, "I will be with thee." (6:15-16)
- When Gideon lacked _____, God graciously showed Himself strong. (6:17-21)
- When Gideon was _____, God gave _____. (6:22-23)

Application Notes: _____

Question: Will God _____ of me? (6:25-35)

Answers:

- When Gideon _____ what man would do to Him, God protected Him. (6:27-32)
- When Gideon obeyed the Lord, his example _____ those around Him. (6:30-35)

Application Notes: _____

Question: Will God keep His _____? (6:36-40)

Answer:

- When Gideon doubted God's promise, God graciously showed Himself _____.

Psalms 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. 14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Application Notes: _____

