

Judges
The Calling of Gideon:
Patient God, Fearful Leader
Judges 6:1-32
Sermon Outline

Introduction: Like Gideon we often find ourselves asking, “Why doesn’t God do something?” In Judges 6 God answers that question by giving us a portrait of himself—a portrait that helps us in tough times: (i) God is present, (ii) God is patient, and (iii) God expects participation.

I) God is present

A) v. 11: Like Deborah (4.5) ‘sitting under’ the tree judging Israel

In Gideon’s space and time taking it all in

Not apologizing, but ruling

- Dt. 28.15-31

Not delivering but explaining (vv. 7-10)

B) Meaning for us

Search me and know me through my circumstances

II) God is patient

A) God’s way with Gideon

B) Meaning for us

III) God expects participation

A) v. 14, v. 16

B) Why?

- To show his power in our weakness
- Because he values us: Mighty man of valor

Take away: Do something

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Where do you wish God were more obviously active at present—in your life or in world events? Why?
- 2) What was happening to Israel under Midianite oppression (vv 2-6)? Imagine living through this for 7 years with your family.
- 3) Read Deuteronomy 28:15-32 in the light of life under the Midianites, together with the message of the prophet God sends (vv. 7-10). What is the message?
- 4) Reflect on the statement by Dale Davis: “Like Israel we may want to escape from our circumstances while God wants to interpret our circumstances.”
- 5) Psalm 139 ends, “Search me and know me. See if there by any wicked way in me. Lead me in the way everlasting.” Pray this prayer over one of the unrelenting problems you listed in question 1 above.
- 6) Note how patient the angel of the Lord is with Gideon. Compare this story with that of Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4) and Jesus with his disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24).
- 7) Note vv. 14 and 16 and compare them to Matthew 14:16. Why does God use us, especially in our weakness, in his plans?
- 8) View the Angel’s salutation to Gideon (v 12: “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor”) as a promise. What is the promise? Does God make a similar promise to you? What incentive does this give you to do at least something about what is wrong in the world?