



LIFE LESSONS FROM OLD TESTAMENT HEROES WEEK #6 GIDEON

Last week, Jeff Kuhn preached an excellent message on Joshua. He shared with us how God takes an ordinary person and does extraordinary and impossible things through them.

This week, we will take it one step further. God will not only use an ordinary person; but He will use a person who has doubts, is ill-equipped, is lacking in skills, is insecure and feels inadequate. He intentionally uses the least likely person to manifest His glory. This is the lesson we will learn from Gideon.

In the beginning of Gideon's life, God called him a "mighty warrior". He was not called this because of what he had done, because of his courage, or because Gideon was a strong man of great confidence. He was called this because God knew what He could do through Gideon's faithfulness.

Listening to God's instructions, Gideon fulfilled the title given to him; he went from being a zero to being a hero. As God has done for Gideon, He does the same for us today. God has given each of us a purpose. He knows we are more than able to fulfill this purpose as we live a life of courageous faith. Why? Because God is doing it. We are merely being vessels.

ZERO TO HERO - GIDEON

Judges 6:15-16 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Do you ever think God is unable to use you because...?

- You do not feel smart enough?
- You feel you are not very gifted or talented?
- You feel like you are too anxious, have too many issues in your life, or you are not good enough?
- You feel like you are a nobody?

If so, you are like Gideon and yet God called Gideon to be a mighty warrior. Even after Gideon was able to recruit a large army to defeat the enemy, God wanted to minimize the army from 32,000 to 300. Why? To prove the deliverance of God's people from the oppressing enemies was an act of God, and not an act of mankind. While it is true Gideon practiced faithfulness and accepted the leadership position, the battle and the victory belonged to God.

1. What thoughts do you believe Gideon may have contemplated when he was asked by God to be a mighty warrior by tearing down his father's idol, minimizing his army and hiding in the winepress? How did Gideon encourage himself to be faithful?
2. Name some other people in the Bible whom God called. What are some of the common characteristics of these people?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Can you relate to this Scripture? Do you know of any examples of people in our church community, in Christian history, or in our Country? List them.
4. What is God's purpose for your life? How do you encourage yourself to be courageously faithful? Do you honestly believe God wants to do great things through you? If so, do you know what they are? Are you doing them? Explain.