

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Lesson 7 ~ October 16, 2022

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Unit II: Out of Slavery to Nationhood

Topic: Confidence Provides Necessary Courage

Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 ~ Background Scripture: Judges 6: 1-27

Printed Passages: Judges 6:1-2; 7-16

Key Verse:

And the Lord said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die (Judges 6:23 KJV).

Courageous Faith:

- Means believing GOD for deliverance and salvation regardless of how the situation looks.
- Walking in the absolute assurance that what GOD has promised HE will deliver.
- Clinging to the promise that GOD will neither leave nor forsake us.
- Is our most potent and powerful weapon against defeat when we face a desperate set of circumstances.

GOD has provided HIS children with courage to press our way through the most challenging circumstances. HE has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind. Gideon realized GOD was the source of his confidence and courage.

Blurred Memory - Judges 6:1-2

Hear they go again. Wash, spin, rinse, spin, and repeat. After the generation of Joshua has passed on, the Israelites have allowed the goodness of GOD to pass from their memory and gone back to their idolatrous ways. These unthinking people, who suffered GOD's wrath in their times of disobedience, find a little respite from God's judgments, and return to their disobedient ways again. The children of Israel have not kept in their memory the terror of God's judgments, nor been gracious for the wonderful things he had done. Now the Israelites are under Medianite rule and find themselves dwelling in mountain clefts, caves, and strongholds. Their land plundered and their crops stolen for seven years. Oppressed by a superior force, they find themselves fearful and anxious.

Selective Amnesia - Judges 6:7-10

How often do we suffer selective amnesia? After suffering hours of labor, unthinkable pain, and anguish, just one glimpse of a baby's face can wipe all the torment away. Likewise, when we are in the sunshine and the cool winds are blowing, we find it difficult to resurrect memories of storms that so easily beset us. When pain is so intense that we find ourselves crying out to the LORD we tend to forget what got us into that condition.

Israel finds herself under the thumb of the Medianites and find their oppressors were wreaking havoc and creating fear among the people.

So, GOD sends them a prophet. His purpose is to remind the children of Israel of exactly why they are in this condition. He informs them in whose authority he speaks, "Thus saith the LORD GOD of Israel." He then reminds them of the victories won under HIS banner and that the very land upon which they stand was provided by HIM.

After reminding them of the conquest he then brings to their memory the requirement by which they were to live (Judges 6:10), "I am the Lord your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell..." Rather than complying with the demands of the covenant agreement at Sinai, they disobeyed the LORD and worshipped and bowed to other gods. "But ye have not obeyed my voice." The Israelites were found to be insubordinate, defiant, rebellious, unsubmitive and noncompliant.

Encouraged by GOD - Judges 6:11-16

Oh, how sweet to walk in the knowledge that you are called for GOD'S purpose. Aware or not, prepared or not, confident, or not, GOD will equip those HE calls. Here we find the dawning of the day of their deliverance, by the calling of Gideon the son of Joash. Even through our disobedience, GOD does not break his covenants. Deuteronomy 31:8 "... he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed." The angel of the LORD did not greet Gideon for who he was but for whom he would be. He that is faithful in a few things shall be ruler over many.

Gideon gave a sad answer to a joyful salutation (Judges 6:13), "Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? All this trouble and distress from the Midianites' aggression." In his reply he does not regard the praise of his own valor. The angel speaks directly to him: "The Lord is with thee;"

Gideon inquires, "where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?" He wants to know, where is the power which delivered our fathers from the Egyptians, can it not deliver us from the hands of the Midianites? Why isn't God immediately working miracles on our behalf, forgetting that it is because of their sin that they had forfeited HIS favour and help.

The angel gave him a powerful answer to his objections, by giving him a commission to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Midianites and assuring him of success (Judges 6:15).

**He first commissioned him to appear and act as Israel's deliverer
Secondly, He assured him of success. This was enough to put courage into him.**

Gideon made a very modest objection against this commission, "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel?" This objection was soon answered by a repetition of the promise that God would be with him (Judges 6:16). The confidence in the angel's words provide the courage to complete Gideon's divine task.

