



The Book of Judges – Riding the Handbasket to Hell

Part 3: Gideon, or What Goes Around Comes Back To Bite You When You Least Expect It

A Reminder

In these Bible studies we could be asking “Why would a loving God command the deaths of all these people, even though they are pagans and oppressing the Israelites?”

Instead, we are asking “What does it mean for us to surrender to the will of God, even though His will seems not only incomprehensible but completely contradictory at times?”



Judges 6:11-23

The Call of Gideon
(See the table on pages 2 and 3)

Judges 6:25-32

Gideon cuts down the Asherah pole and destroys
Baal’s altar (and earns a nickname)



Judges 6:36-40

The thing with the fleece

Judges 7:1-8

The thing with the army - *The ones who got down on all fours to drink had to lay down their weapons; the 300 held on to sword and shield with one hand while lapping with the other.*



Judges 7:9-25

The battle at night

Judges 8:22-27

Gideon's ephod, or

What goes around comes back to bite you when you least expect it



Judges 6

LIFE SITUATION

GIDEON

The Israelites

- ☞ Leaderless after Barak's death
- ☞ Abandoned the Lord
- ☞ Worshipping Baal and Ashtoreth
- ☞ Overrun by Midianites
- ☞ In fear of constant raids
- ☞ Growing crops in secret

Gideon's family

- ☞ One of the smallest tribes in

YOU AND ME

What seems similar in

- ☞ Our community?
- ☞ Your family?
- ☞ Your life?

	<p>Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Smallest family in the tribe <p>Gideon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Insignificant son of this family ☞ Threshing in a hidden place 	
<p>DYSFUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORS / SINS</p> <p>“Dysfunctional” because they work but they were not what God intended; “sins” to the extent that they are not what God intended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Blaming God (6:13) ☞ “Fleece” as a “CYA” tactic? (6:36) 	<p>Where do you / I cast blame instead of accepting responsibility?</p> <p>Where have you / I used God as a “CYA” tactic?</p>
<p>EMOTIONAL UPHEAVAL</p>	<p>Discouragement (6:13)</p> <p>Fear (6:27)</p>	<p>What are you / I discouraged or afraid about?</p>
<p>LIES / DISTORTIONS OF THE TRUTH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ “I’m too insignificant” (6:15) ☞ God might be angry with me (6:39) ☞ I can only do God’s will with enough preparation (7:2) 	<p>When have you / I told ourselves that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ I’m not important enough ☞ God might be angry with me ☞ I can’t do God’s will without adequate preparation

WOUND(S)

- ☞ The Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord (6:1) – a *self-inflicted wound!*
- ☞ The Lord gave them into the hands of the Midianites (6:1)

What wounds do you / I have that are self-inflicted, and which ones are from the Lord?

And now for the parts you never heard in Sunday School . . .

Judges 8:1-21	Gideon's revenge
Judges 8:22-27	Gideon's ephod
Judges 8:28-32	Gideon's retirement
Judges 8:33-35	"No sooner had Gideon died . . ."

To summarize: Gideon was _____

**Next Time: Judges Part 4
Abimelek and Jephthah
Family Reunions in Ancient Israel**