

JESUS & THE PERSON WHO IS AFRAID

JUDGES 6 & 7

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Jesus meets fearful people where they hide and turns fear into faith. God is looking for faithful, obedient, watchful servants to change this world.

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Greg explained, “It seems like our culture has been turned upside down—good is bad, and bad is good; what used to be wrong is now trending, and what used to be right is now cringe.” When culture is upside down, why are hearts anxious? How does exchanging God’s truth lead to fear (Isaiah 5:20)?

As seen in Gideon’s story, what kind of qualities is God looking for in a person that He can use for His glory? How can fear be transformed into faith?

UNDERSTANDING

READ JUDGES 6:1–7:25

Things were turned upside down in the days of Gideon (Judges 17:6). Why did Israel end up living under the power of the Midianites? Why do you think God chose someone who was hiding in fear to lead Israel?

The Christian life is full of difficult questions (6:13). Pastor Greg explained, “So often we are looking for an answer to the why question when it is about a Who.” Although God did not answer his question, how did Gideon turn to the Lord?

Gideon realized he saw God (6:14, 22–24). Pastor Greg explained this as a Christophany—an appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament. How did Gideon respond when he realized God’s presence? How does this reveal the way in which God meets fearful people where they hide?

God uses people who are humble (6:15). How did Gideon respond to God's call? Why does God choose to do extraordinary things through ordinary people?

God saw Gideon for what he would become (6:12, 16). When we see failure, God sees potential. How can we remember God's perspective? How would this change the way you view yourself and others?

God's first test for Gideon was in his home (6:25–27). Why was obedience to God at home necessary before public victory? How did this impact Gideon and his family?

Fear is contagious (7:2–3). Why is fear contagious? How can faith be contagious instead (Mark 5:36; Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 41:10; Proverbs 3:24–25)?

God imposed this test to get rid of the half-hearted people (7:4). Why can God do more with 300 committed people than 10,000 half-hearted? How can we guard against being half-hearted?

God gave Gideon the battle plan (7:9, 18). How was the enemy defeated? How did the strategy reveal God's wisdom, power, and glory?

APPLICATION

Have you ever felt unqualified to serve the Lord? How did you respond? How can your fear be turned into faith?

Like Gideon, how might you be tested in your home? What practical steps can you take to lead or impact your family spiritually?

God reduced Gideon's army so that He would get the glory. How have you experienced the power of God displayed in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9–10)?

Pastor Greg said, "God can turn zeros into heroes, fear into faith, hiding into fighting, and panic into purpose." How does the gospel turn an upside-down world right-side up (Acts 17:6)? How have you personally experienced this transformation?

PRAYER

Thank God for His power—He turns fear into faith and sees you for what you will become. Pray for God's strength in your weakness and ask Him to use you for His glory. Pray that you will be faithful, obedient, and watchful.