

A LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER

May 19, 2019 Judges 6:11-24 by George Kong

BIG IDEA: Today we will learn from Gideon's life changing encounter with God. Gideon learned that the presence of the Lord was his true source of strength. Not his own personal power, skill, experience, education or upbringing.

"The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." (12)

3 Myths that disconnect us from the true power source

1. Myth #1: God is not with us if BAD THINGS are happening to us.

"Pardon me, my Lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?" (13)

"The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord..." **Judges 6:1**

Remedy: Put God in the center of our lives so that people can see God in the things we do and the way we love!

2. Myth #2: God is not with us if things do not go AS WE EXPECTED.

"Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hands of Midian" (13)

Remedy: Your circumstances and expectations are not what defines you. Our identity must align with Jesus.

"The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" (14)

3. Myth #3: God is limited by my PERSONAL LIMITATIONS.

"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." (15)

Remedy: Put God as the center of your life. Do not put God in the box of your personal limitation. God is able! God is faithful!

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." **1 Corinthians 12:18**

"The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites..." (16) (Roman 12:1)

4. Gideon BROUGHT AN OFFERING to seek God.

¹⁷ Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. ¹⁸ Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return." (17-18)

²² When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!" ²³ But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." (22-23)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." **Romans 12:1-2**