

A CHALLENGE TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH
THE JUDGES SERIES #6
September 2nd, 2018

TEXT: Judges 6:36-40

CONSIDER THIS: Gideon struggled because he did not know if he was in God's will, and this robbed him of confidence and courage. Today, it is common for Christians to also wonder how they can know what God's will for their life is. Uncertainty about God's will undermines our joy and peace, it cripples our growth and it can lead to disastrous decision making. To study Gideon's life is profitable for us and we ought to be quick to learn and believe the big lesson Gideon struggled to learn and it is this: God's will for your life is not hidden and to be in the center of God's will is to be in the very best place!

I GIDEON'S FLEECE (Judges 6:36-40)

- A) The request by Gideon was inappropriate and shameful.
1. Gideon already knew God's will, at least as far as it pertained to the Midianites (6:14, 16).
 2. Gideon knew that the LORD had made a specific promise (6:36 = "*as you have promised/spoken*").
 3. The LORD had already performed a miracle as confirmation to Gideon (6:21).
 4. Gideon knew his final request was inappropriate (6:39 = "*Do not be angry with me*").

God is a compassionate father and He patiently dealt with Gideon's fear and doubt. But perhaps faith and courage would have come easier for Gideon if his thoughts and practices had not been so unbiblical prior to this (Judges 6:13). This is why we must tear down the idols of our hearts.

Regarding God's command to Gideon to tear down his father's altar to Baal (6:25-26), Robert Chisholm writes "It is not enough to build an altar to the LORD if one leaves the altar of a competing God standing."

- B) Gideon feared men (6:27) but maybe he also feared Baal. The significance of the dew and the fleece was that in Canaanite thought Baal was a "storm god" who controlled the dew and the rain.
- C) The fundamental and foundational issue in "discovering" God's will and being in the center of God's will always comes down to this unchanging precept : **OBEY HIS WORD.**

II DAVID'S FAITH

- A) Although David would eventually become Israel's second king (after King Saul), we need to remember that David was born at the tail end of the time of the Judges. In David's day the Philistines had become even worse than what the Midianites had been in Gideon's day ... and the Philistines had a killing machine named Goliath (see I Samuel 17:4-11).
- B) David, while a young teen, heard Goliath defy Jehovah, the promise-making and promise-keeping God of Israel (I Samuel 17:22-24).
- C) David was confident that he would defeat Goliath because he knew it was God's will (I Samuel 17:32-37). But how could he possibly know such a thing? David knew the will of God because David **knew and obeyed** the Word of God (Deuteronomy 20:1-4).

"Lay out a fleece? I don't need a fleece to know God's will,
I have His Word, Goliath is going down!"

- D) **God's will is not hidden!** Saul, or any of his men, could have defeated Goliath, if they had been men of the Word. Had they been men of the Word they would have been where David already was = in the exact center of God's will, the best place in the universe. Christian, the courage to face your Goliath will come as the result of living in faithful obedience to God's Word. This is His will for your life (see I Samuel 17:43-47).

III KNOWING GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE

- A) Christian, you don't need Gideon's fleece. The will of God for your life is 95% character and 5% circumstance (we tend to reverse this). The Christ-like character that puts you in the center of God's will is revealed to you by God in His Word (for example, see I Thessalonians 4:1-3; 5:16-18; Romans 12:1-2).
- B) God also cares about the remaining 5%, the choices and decisions you face about your life's circumstances (Matthew 6:31-33, 10:29-31). If the first 95% (Christian character centered around obedience to the Lord's commands and a growing relationship with Him) is in alignment, you can trust your desires for the final 5% because they will come from the Lord (Psalm 37:4).
- C) However, do **not** trust your desires and do **not** trust your decisions in the 5% category (circumstances) if you are knowingly disobedient in the 95% category (Christ-likeness), and do **not** ask for more revelation ("Lord, show me Your will in this matter") if you are not a faithful steward of what He already has revealed in His Word.

There is no better place to be in life than to be in the center of
God's will, for that is where fellowship and intimacy with Him is the
sweetest and most satisfying. **His will for your life is not hidden!**