

A RELUCTANT HERO
JUDGES 6-7 / 11-5-17 / P.M.

I. FIRST, GIDEON TEACHES US THAT GOD USES DIFFICULTY TO GET OUR ATTENTION.

- A. Israel began yet another cycle of sin in Gideon's day—6:1.
 - 1. They lived in hiding.
 - 2. They lived in poverty.
 - 3. They likewise lived in fear.
 - 4. After seven years Israel cried out for God's help—6:6.
- B. God often uses difficulty to get our attention as He did with Israel—Prov. 3:11-12.

II. SECOND, GIDEON TEACHES US THAT GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING AROUND US.

- A. First, God sent a prophet to deliver a not so good message to Israel—6:7-10.
- B. Second, God sent an angel to call Gideon as their Judge—6:11.
 - 1. The angel's message confused Gideon—6:13.
 - 2. At that moment Gideon had a "crisis of belief".
 - 3. God assured Gideon that He would go with him to deliver Israel—6:14.
 - 4. Gideon asked for a sign and God gave it to him—6:17, 21-22.
 - 5. We may long for a sign today.
 - 6. Signs can never take the place of faith—John 20:29.

III. THIRD, GIDEON TEACHES US THAT WE MUST MAKE MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR LIVES TO GO WITH GOD.

- A. God expected Gideon to make major adjustments in the way he and his family worshipped idols—Judges 6:25-27.
- B. Following God can be costly as Gideon discovered—6:28-30.
- C. After Gideon adjusted his life to God he was ready to serve Him—6:34.

IV. FOURTH, GIDEON TEACHES US THAT GOD IS PATIENT.

- A. Gideon still struggled with doubts and asked for another sign—6:36-38.
- B. God is patient not only with Gideon, but also with us.

V. FIFTH, GIDEON TEACHES US THAT ONE PLUS GOD IS A MAJORITY.

- A. God thinned Gideon's army down from 32,000 to 10,000 by letting all those afraid to go home.
- B. God further thinned Gideon's army down from 10,000 to 300.
- C. Gideon and his 300 men defeated the Midianites with God's miraculous help—7:20-22 and Luke 18:27.