



LEADERSHIP - GIDEON

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Cor 27-29
- God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things - and things that are not- to nullify the things that are ,so that no one may boast before Him

THE GIDEON SYNDROME

- The fact that God uses the weak, the humble, the fearful to confound the world is repeated throughout biblical history.
- Even the great Moses was initially a reluctant starter!! He said "WHO AM I THAT I SHOULD GO TO PHAROAH AND THAT I SHOULD BRING THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT?"
- GOD SAYS –"I WILL BE WITH YOU"
- Moses again says " I AM NOT ELOQUENT.I AM SLOW OF SPEECH"

GOD SAYS- WHO MADE MAN'S MOUTH? GO AND I WILL BE WITH YOUR MOUTH AND TEACH YOU WHAT TO SAY"

- THIS IS THE GOD WE SERVE!!!!
- Jn 15;16 Jesus says- "YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME ,I CHOSE YOU"

GIDEON - JUDGES Ch 6 & 7

- Judges 6 1-5 (paraphrased)
 - a. Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord
 - b. God permitted the Midianites to cause strife and hardships
 - c. The Israelites were hiding in caves

Enter GIDEON

- Judges 6;11-13 (paraphrased)
- God sends a prophet to convict the Israelites of their wicked ways
- GIDEON WAS THRESHING CORN IN A WINE CELLER
- God chooses Gideon to deliver Israel
- He says-" The Lord is with you mighty warrior"

Gideon says "If the Lord is with us why has this happened?"

When God appoints- He annoints!!

- Gideon is reluctant to take God at His Word
- He starts to say how inadequate he feels. His self assessment shows the low opinion he had of himself. How shall I save Israel when my family is poor and I am the least in my father's house"
- We do the same very often when God shows us that He wants do something with us



THE FLEECE STORY

- Gideon puts God to the test
 - God seems to understand the reason for Gideon's doubt and is patient
 - God does so to build Gideon's confidence for the job that He has for him
 - He teaches him obedience step by step and teaches him to rely totally on Him
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God's strategy for battle and Gideon's obedience

- Under the Lord's direction he prepared for battle
- He had 32000 volunteers against 132000 Midianites
- God reduced his numbers to 300 to fight 132000. ie, 1: 450!!
- When He gives us a task He tests us to see whether our hearts are truly His

WEAPONS OF BATTLE

- An empty clay jar
- A torch
- A trumpet

Strange though this may seem, different situations will demand different methods

THE BATTLE

- The jars are smashed, exposing the light of the torches, the trumpets are blown frantically from every side of the camp, confusion reigns and the Midianites flee
- How do we use jars, torches and trumpets to gain victory today?
- 2 Cor 4,5-10
- For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God who said "Let your light shine out of darkness" made His light shine in our hearts.... But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us.

We are the jars of clay. when there are times of weakness it causes cracking of our normal strength. As Paul said these times of persecution when he was hard pressed, perplexed that the life of Jesus in Him is revealed. Use every opportunity to glorify God

LESSONS ON LEADERSHIP FROM GIDEON

- HE LISTENED TO GOD HE TRUSTED IN GOD AND NOT ON HIS OWN STRENGTH
- HE HAD FAITH THAT GOD WOULD KEEP HIS PROMISES- FLEECE STORY
- HE LED FROM THE FRONT
- HE WORSHIPPED GOD AND GAVE GLORY TO HIM FOR HIS VICTORIES

CONCLUSION

- We have seen that God delights in using weak vessels to display His strength and faithfulness. We have also seen that this can often come about in times of strife and trouble.
- God's purpose for such trials is for the strengthening of our faith and the displaying of His life through us.
- As the Apostle Paul said in 2 Cor 12;9

But He said to me "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness"