LIVING A SIGNIFICANT LIFE

Great Lessons from the Lesser Known – Part 1
Gideon: Judges 6-7
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1. DISCOVER YOUR IDENTITY

"Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, 'Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"

Judges 6:11b-12 (NLT)

LOOK AT <u>YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES</u>
OR
LISTEN TO WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU

2. DECIDE YOUR ACTIVITY

"'Sir,' Gideon replied, 'if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.' Then the LORD turned to him and said, 'Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

Judges 6:13-14 (NLT)

WAIT FOR STRENGTH <u>YOU DON'T HAVE</u>
OR
GO IN THE STRENGTH <u>YOU DO HAVE</u>

3. DETERMINE YOUR CAPACITY

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength."

Judges 7:2 (NLT)

RELY ON <u>YOUR RESOURCES</u>
OR
WATCH GOD USE YOUR WEAKNESSES

GOD'S PROCESS FOR USING OUR WEAKNESSES TO BRING HIM GLORY:

"So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a stone."

1 Samuel 17:50a (NCV)

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ... Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish." John 6:9, 11 (NIV)

"The LORD told Gideon, 'With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."

Judges 7:7 (NLT)

- 1. GOD REDUCES OUR RESOURCES
- 2. GOD MAGNIFIES OUR NEED
- 3. SOMEONE TRUSTS GOD WITH WHAT LITTLE THEY HAVE
- 4. GOD <u>USES</u> THE LITTLE WE HAVE TO SHOW HOW GREAT HE IS

""My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me... For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this allsurpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 (NIV)

5. GOD WORKS THROUGH US TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL "But Lord,' Gideon replied, 'how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!' The LORD said to him, 'I will be with you."

Judges 6:15-16a (NLT)

Memory Verse:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)