



Lesson 77

Gideon's Call

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Judges 6:1-40• Setting: circa 1260 B.C. near Ophrah, a city about 20 miles southwest of the Sea of Galilee• Main Characters: God and Gideon• Plot: Gideon is called by God to deliver the Israelites | <p>from the oppression of the Midianites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key word(s): "show me a _____" (v 17)• Climax: <i>Judges 6:17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.</i> |
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Background

1. (vv 1-6) Once again, the children of Israel fall into sin, and once again the LORD allows them to be oppressed by their enemies – this time it was the Midianites.
 - a. The Midianites were nomadic herdsman from east of the Red Sea. The Hebrews had fought with them many years before during the life of _____. (cf. Num. 31)
 - b. The Midianites oppressed Israel so severely that many dwelt in _____ for fear of their inevitable harvest-time invasions.
2. (vv 7-10) The Hebrews cried out to God for deliverance, and in response, God sent an unnamed prophet to remind them that it was Jehovah...
 - a. ...that _____ them from Egypt many years ago.
 - b. ...that had given them their _____ by driving out those that now oppress them.
 - c. ...that could continue to bless them, but their _____ has brought punishment instead.

APPLICATION → Prophetic preaching is a _____ for gracious working. Matthew Henry said, "They cried to God for a deliverer, and God sent them a prophet to instruct them, and to make them ready for deliverance... We have reason to hope God is designing mercy for us if we find he is by his grace preparing us for it."¹

"Who Me?"

3. (vv 11-12) Meanwhile, near Ophrah, an angel disguised as a _____ rested underneath an oak tree. Gideon was nearby threshing wheat in a threshing floor that offered concealment from marauding Midianites.
 - a. The angel appeared to Gideon and said, "*The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.*"
 - b. (v 13) Gideon's response showed that he did not recognize the man as an angel. Calling him "sir" (KJV: *Lord*, Hebrew *adoni*) and retorting negatively, Gideon dismissed the visitor's greeting.
 - c. Whether Gideon was brought up with the knowledge of Jehovah's mighty deeds, or whether he had recently heard of them through the preaching of the anonymous prophet, Gideon's words referenced them with an air of _____.

APPLICATION → Preaching must be received with faith or it does not benefit the hearer. The same truths can be preached to some that are hardened by it while others are melted by it. The difference is faith. The apostle warned, "*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with _____ in them that heard it.*" (Heb. 4:2)

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 340.

4. (v 14) Here is a touching phrase that reveal God’s tender grace: *“the LORD looked upon him...”*²
 - a. Despite Gideon’s lack of faith, God graciously commissioned him as Israel’s deliverer. Jehovah, speaking through the angel, said, *“Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I _____ thee?”*
 - b. (vv 15-16) Gideon again responded with words from a heart weak in faith, but God encouraged him with promises of divine assistance, *“Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.”*

“Show Me!”

5. (vv 17-18) Gideon needed more than words – he needed to _____ to believe. “Shew me a sign that thou talkest with me,” he asked. God graciously agreed.
 - a. (v 19) Gideon went and hurriedly prepared roasted goat, bread, and broth. Carrying his gifts in a basket and a pot, he brought them to his mysterious visitor.
 - b. (vv 20-21) The angel directed Gideon to put the food on a rock and to pour the broth over it. The angel then touched the food with the tip of his walking staff and _____ came out of the rock and consumed everything: meat, bread, and broth. In that instant, the angel departed out of sight.
6. (v 22) Realizing that he had indeed seen an angel of God face-to-face, Gideon feared for his life.
 - a. (v 23) The LORD spoke again to Gideon (without a messenger) saying, *“Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.”*
 - b. (v 24) Gideon commemorated the event by building an altar and calling it *Jehovah-Shalom*, which means the *Jehovah is _____*.

APPLICATION → Christians are commanded to be hospitable to all – even strangers – because “some have entertained angels unaware.” (Heb. 13:2) Can you think of other Biblical characters that unknowingly entertained angels? _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): sign • 1. a. Moses; b. caves • 2. a. delivered; b. land; c. disobedience; • 3. a. traveler; c. faithlessness → faith • 4. a. sent • 5. see; b. fire • 6. b. Peace → Abraham, cf. Gen. 18; Lot, cf. Gen. 19

² “When messages are delivered by the Angel of the Lord, the form of the message is as if God Himself were speaking.”
 Albert Barnes, *Notes on the Old Testament: Exodus to Ruth*, ed. F. C. Cook and J. M. Fuller (London: John Murray, 1879), 431.