

Lesson 79 Gideon's Fleece

Story Elements

- **Text**: Judges 6:33-7:7
- Setting: circa 1249 B.C. near the valley of Jezreel
- Main Characters: God and Gideon (Jerubbaal)
- **Plot**: Gideon lays out fleece.
- **Key word**(s): "the people are ______ " (7:2, 4)
- Climax: Judges 7:4 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto

the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

Review	
1.	(6:25-32) After Gideon was called by God to deliver Israel, God commanded him to tear down his father's pagan altar and to make sacrifice unto Jehovah. This Gideon did, which earned him the nickname Jerubbaal, which means "let Baal against him."
G	ideon Tests God
AP arı Gc	 (6:33) Gideon's opportunity to fight the Midianites came when the Midianites and their confederates gathered for battle in the valley of Jezreel. a. (6:34) While the Midianites came upon the land, the Spirit of God came upon Gideon. Matthew Henry notes, "The Spirit of the Lord Gideon (so the word is), clothed him as a robe, to put honour upon him, clothed him as a coat of mail, to put defence upon him. Those are well clad that are thus clothed."¹ b. (6:35) Gideon blew the trumpet and sent Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. A large army of Hebrews was gathered. PLICATION → The God who calls us to the work will equip us for the work. Gideon was supplied with the very mor of God, and the Spirit of God gave him a mighty influence on his countrymen. We are reminded of what od did for Joshua: "And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to thee in the sight
of	all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee." (Joshua 3:7)
3.	 (6:36-40) Still struggling with weak faith, Gideon asked God for more proof that he would indeed give him victory over the Midianites: a. Gideon put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor that night, asking God to make the fleece saturated with dew, but to make the ground around it God did for Gideon as he asked. b. The next day, Gideon asked that God would do it again, but this time make the wool and the ground wet. God did for Gideon as he asked.
Gio	PLICATION→ Christians make a mistake when they speak of seeking God's will as "putting out the fleece." deon was not seeking God's will – he knew God's will. Gideon was not confused about what to do, he was (If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Ju. 6:36). Gideon doubted the promises God, but God was gracious to Gideon and acquiesced to his needs for more assurance.

¹ Matthew Henry, <u>Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume</u> (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 342.

G	od Tests Gideon
4.	(7:1-2) When the Hebrews assembled for battle, the LORD said to Gideon that the army was too large.
	a. With a large army, the Hebrews would be tempted to take the credit of victory for themselves and not to give God the
	b. (7:3) To reduce the numbers, God instructed Gideon to let the men who were afraid of fighting return home soldiers left. Ten thousand remained.
	c. (7:4-7) Still, "the people are yet too many." Gideon is again instructed to reduce his numbers through a test: those that drank water by cupping the hand and bringing it to the mouth were to be retained while all others were dismissed soldiers were left.
Gio tha	PLICATION→ Gideon tested God twice, and God tested Gideon twice. God is gracious in conceding to deon's needs for assurance; but God is also wise in strengthening Gideon's faith by making his army so small at only God could give the victory. Gideon wanted a sign. Gideon needed stronger faith. Let us remember that and may grant us what we want but will teach us what we
dir	PLICATION→ The terminus of human history is the of God. All things are headed in that rection. Gideon's story, like other stories in the book of Judges, remind us that when things are bleakest, Godstill sovereign, still working, and still bringing all things to a God-glorifying end.
cho an	Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath osen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, d things which are not, to bring to nought things that e: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence .