



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.”

Gideon Tests God

2. (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.

APPLICATION → The God who calls us to the work will equip us for the work. Gideon was supplied with the very armor of God, and the Spirit of God gave him a mighty influence on his countrymen. We are reminded of what God 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.

APPLICATION → Christians make a mistake when they speak of seeking God's will as “putting out the fleece.” Gideon 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 of God, but God was gracious to Gideon and acquiesced to his needs for more assurance.

¹ Matthew Henry, [Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume](#) (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 342.

