Gideon: Facing the Truth
From Victim to Victor

July 14, 2019
• From Victim To Victor
• Facing The Truth
• The Blame Game
• How God Makes The Weak Strong
• Confirming Our Call
• God’s Answer For Fear - The Reduction Factor
• God’s Plan For Our Freedom
• Potential Problems Of Spiritual Change.
• Judges 6:1-6 (NIV) (1) Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. (2) Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. (3) Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. (4) They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. (5) They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count the men and their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. (6) Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.
SIN ALWAYS BRINGS CONSEQUENCES:

• “‘Again’ The Israelites Did Evil In The Eyes Of The Lord”

• ‘Again’ = This Was A Pattern For Them

• They Did Not Heed The Word Of The Lord And Kept Making Foolish Choices
WHAT IS SIN?

• **Sin** Is Anything We **Do** That God Tells Us **Not To Do**. 
Or ... 
Anything We **Don’t Do** That God Tells Us **We Should Do**.

• The Choice To Either Heed Or Ignore God’s Instructions Impacts The Outcome Of Our Lives
• When You Allow Sin To Reside In Your Life, You Don’t Control That Sin, That Sin Controls You

• For Israel -- The Consequences Of Sin Were:
  • *Destruction*
  • *Bondage*
  • *Became Powerless Before Their Enemies*
• Sin Always Brings Consequences

• The Consequences Of Sin For Israel Were Severe:
  • Unable To Stand Against Their Enemies
  • Must Hide From The Enemy Or Be Destroyed
  • God Would Not Be With Them If They Continued In Sin
• Sin Is: A Killer— Destroyer-- Robber --Thief

• Sin Blocks Our Fellowship With God

• Psa 66:18 (NIV) "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;"

• Isa 59:2 (NIV) "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."
• Sin Separates People From God

• Prov 11:21 (NIV) "Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free."

• Sin Always Brings Consequences
  Righteousness Always Brings Reward!
• God Gave The Israelites Over To The Midianites Because Of Their Sin

• God Gives Us A Choice: “Serve Me Or Serve The Enemy” “Be A Victim Or Be A Victor”
• Scripture Names The Oppressors Of Israel As The Midianites; The Amalekites; The Peoples Of The East

• The Amalekites Had Descended From An Incestuous Relationship Between Lot And His Daughter

• A People Conceived In Sin Who Brought Consequences To God's People
• **SIN IS A CONDITION OF THE HEART**

• Sin Destroys Our Heart Towards God

• Our Hearts Are Soon Overtaken & Diseased, Unable To Withstand The Lure, Mastery & Power Of Sin
• Because Sin Is A Condition Of The Heart One Sin Leads To Another

• People Who Continue In Sin Are Turned Over To Their Sin
• The Midianites
  • Also Known As The Ismaelites
  • Acknowledged The God Of Israel As Supreme Yet They Never Worshipped The God Of Israel

• There Are People Today Who Believe There Is A God Yet They Don’t Serve Him

• The Midianites Became A Recurring “Bad Dream” To Israel
• The Israelites Once A Feared People Became a Nation Of Cowards

• They Were Powerless To Stop The Enemy

• It Is Because They Chose To Disobey God

• They Chose Their Way Over God's Way

• They Chose To Live Lives Of Sin
• The Result Of Their Sin Was Oppression - Bondage -- Destruction

• The Oppressors with Tremendous Numbers Ravaged Their Land. They Went In And Camped On Their Land. The Crops They Didn't Take For Themselves -- They Ruined.

• They Left Israel But Came Back Again And Again
• In Our World Today the Enemy Keeps Coming Back To Rob, Kill And Destroy Every Shred Of Value And Life

• That Is What Sin Will Open You Up To -- Stay Away From Sin!

• It Will Take You Where You Do Not Want To Go And It Will Leave You Without Recourse
• THE SOLUTION FOR SIN: CALLING OUT TO GOD

• Judg 6:6 (NIV) "Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help."

• The Best Answer For The Problem Of Sin Is To Cry Out To The Lord --- He Will Help You
• Genesis 4:6-7 (NIV) (6) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? (7) If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

• When We Ignore The Warnings Of Scripture Regarding Sin We Risk Becoming A Slave To Both Sin & Satan
Jesus With His Arms Open Wide Is Saying To Us:

“I Can Break The Chain Of That Sin”

“If You Will Only Call Out To Me, I Will Forgive You And Deliver You”
• The Children Of Israel Finally Remembered The Lord. Tired Of Bondage -- They Cried Out To The Lord For Help

• From The Place Where They Had Exasperated All Of Their Options -- They Called Out To God For Help

• God Had A Word For Them To Set Them Free

• READ: Judges 6:7-10
• Those Who Call Upon The Name Of The Lord Shall Be Saved

• We Serve A God Of Great Deliverance’s…
  • David
  • The Three Hebrew Children
  • Daniel
  • Jonah
  • The Repentant Thief On The Cross.
  • The Apostles Peter And Paul And Silas

• The Lord Is My Rock, My Fortress, And My Deliverer
(2 Cor 1:10 NIV) "He Has Delivered Us From Such A Deadly Peril, And He Will Deliver Us. On Him We Have Set Our Hope That He Will Continue To Deliver Us."
• When You Turn To God You Must Face The Truth: (The Solution For Sin...)

• Facing The Truth About What Got Us Into The Situation In The First Place Will Always Be Important

• READ: Judges 6:7-10
• When You Call Out To God -- He Will Get Through To You

• There Is a Sure Downfall for Any Person Who Allows Idols To Take The Place Of Worship That Should Be Reserved For God Almighty

• Too Often People Allow Things (Situations, People, Positions) To Take The Place Of Desire And Devotion In Life That Should Be Reserved For God
• God Will Not Endorse Something In Your Life That Is Going To Bring You To The Place Of Destruction

• The Loving Father Wants You To Get Rid Of The Things That Can Harm You

• We Must Continue To Listen To The Voice Of God

• Without His Instruction - Reason - Truth -- We Cannot Make It
• **It Is So Important To Open Your Ears And Listen To What The Spirit Of The Lord Is Saying**
  - For I Am The Lord Your God A Strong And Mighty Tower
  - I Will Make For You A Way Through The Wilderness
  - Open Your Ears To Hear From Me

• **The Solution For Sin Is Turning To God-- It Involves The Matter Of Extricating Sin From Your Life**

• **We Must Keep Our Ears Tuned To The Will - Ways -- Word -- Of Our Master**
The Good News Of God’s Grace

Romans 3:23-24 (NIV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Through God’s Grace The Ugliness Of Sins Stains Are Wiped Out And The Penalty Of Sins Price Is Paid

As We Are Justified And Redeemed By Jesus Christ
• Israel Found Themselves In Some Terrible Situations But God Delivered Them Over And Over Again

• Why Deliver Them? Because Of His Grace!

• READ Judges 6:11-16
• If You Are Going Forward With The Lord And He Is With You
  • You Will No Longer Be A Weakling
  • You Will Be A Winner
  • You Will No Longer Be A Victim
  • You Will Be A Victor

• It’s All By God’s Grace
• **Grace Is Unmerited -- Undeserved Favor**

• *(2 Cor 8:9 NIV)* For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

• **God Sees All Of Our Sin And Inconsistencies And Still Makes A Way For Us To Eternal Life**
Romans 7:18-20 (NIV) (18) I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. (19) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. (20) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.
Romans 7:24-25 (NIV) (24) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? (25) Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- Thanks Be To God Through Jesus Christ Our Lord!
- He Is Our Deliverer
- He Is Our Means To Victory
- He Transforms Us From Weakness To Winning
- From Victim To Victor!!