



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

Concealed to Revealed: Gideon

OPENING & PRAYER:

The story of Gideon is a powerful reminder that God delights in using the unlikely, the hidden, and the seemingly unqualified to accomplish His purposes. Gideon's journey begins in a time of great oppression for Israel, a nation caught in a cycle of serving God, falling into idolatry, suffering bondage, crying out for deliverance, and then being rescued—only to repeat the pattern again. Gideon himself is found hiding, feeling weak and insignificant, yet God calls him a "mighty man of valor" and commissions him to deliver Israel from the Midianites. This calling is not based on Gideon's strength, but on God's presence and power.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. Continue to guide me as we piece together Your Word throughout the Bible. Bring clarity and understanding as we move through Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: **Hebrews 11:30-32**

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. **Hebrews 11:33-35**

For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. **Isaiah 9:4**

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6**

Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: "O My people, who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian (AKA-The Anti-Christ). He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against you, in the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while and the indignation will cease, as will My anger in their destruction." **Isaiah 10:24-25**

And the Lord of hosts will stir up a scourge for him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; as His rod was on the sea, so will He lift it up in the manner of Egypt. **Isaiah 10:25**

Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" **John 7:42**

Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. **Luke 22:43**

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, **Heb. 10:12**

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. **Matthew 23:15**

And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. **Luke 22:2**

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, **Eph. 2:14**

But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said— **Judges 6:34-36**

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **1 Cor. 15:51-52**

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **1 Thess. 4:16-17**

Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' " And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained. **Judges 7:3**

So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink." And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water. **Judges 7:5-6**

I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. **Ezek. 38:21**

So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. **Zechariah 4:6**

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **Revelation 19:11**

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **2 Corinthians 4:6-7**

GO DEEPER:

Gideon's story unfolds in three phases: his calling out of obscurity, his confrontation with the idolatry in his own family, and his victory over the enemy. Each phase mirrors the greater story of Jesus—called out, confronting the spiritual corruption of His people, and ultimately defeating the enemy not by human might, but by the Spirit of God. The battle plan God gives Gideon is unconventional: 300 men, clay pots, torches, and trumpets. The victory comes not through numbers or strength, but through obedience and the breaking of the clay vessels, allowing the light within to shine forth. This is a profound picture of how God's power is revealed through our weakness and surrender.

The parallels between Gideon and Christ are striking. Just as Gideon's victory was for Israel, Christ's victory is for all who believe. The breaking of the clay pots and the shining of the light point to the transformation believers experience—when our earthly vessels are broken, the light of Christ shines through. The trumpet blast and the gathering of the faithful foreshadow the ultimate victory of Christ and the resurrection of believers. Yet, the story ends with a warning: after Gideon's death, Israel quickly forgets God's deliverance and returns to idolatry. This calls us to continually remember and celebrate God's faithfulness, never allowing His past victories in our lives to fade from our hearts.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 1. God Chooses the Unlikely and the Hidden.** Feeling unworthy, inadequate, or hidden does not disqualify anyone from being used by God. In fact, these are often the very qualities that make someone ready for God's purposes, because they know their dependence is on Him and not themselves. God delights in confounding the wise and strong with those who are humble and surrendered, so that His power is made evident through their weakness. If you feel overlooked or unqualified, you are exactly the kind of person God loves to call and empower. [36:37]
- 2. Break Free from Generational Patterns and False Beliefs.** Gideon had to confront and tear down the idols and belief systems of his own family before he could lead others to freedom. Many of us carry limiting beliefs or destructive patterns inherited from our families or culture, but God calls us to break those cycles. True freedom and victory begin when we align our identity with what God says about us, not what our past or others have spoken over us. The courage to confront these strongholds is often the first step toward fulfilling God's calling. [39:33]
- 3. Trust Grows Through Obedience, Not Just Signs.** Gideon "fleeced" the Lord, seeking confirmation before stepping out in faith. While God graciously met him in his uncertainty, the goal was not to remain in a place of constant testing, but to move into a place of trust and obedience. As we see God's faithfulness in response to our small steps of faith, our confidence in Him grows, and we become more willing to act on His word without needing continual reassurance. Mature faith is marked by trust that moves beyond the need for signs. [40:29]
- 4. Victory Comes by God's Spirit, Not Human Strength.** The victory over the Midianites was not achieved by numbers, strategy, or human might, but by the Spirit of God working through surrendered vessels. The breaking of the clay pots to reveal the light is a picture of how God's glory shines most brightly through our brokenness and surrender. In spiritual battles, it is not our own power that brings victory, but God's presence and the light of Christ within us. Our role is to be willing vessels, allowing His Spirit to work through us. [33:47]
- 5. Remember and Celebrate God's Faithfulness.** After Gideon's death, Israel quickly forgot the Lord's deliverance and returned to old patterns. It is vital to continually remember and celebrate what God has done in our lives, stirring up gratitude and faith for the future. Forgetting God's past faithfulness leads to spiritual drift, but remembering His works keeps our hearts anchored and expectant. Make it a practice to recall and share the stories of God's intervention, so that His goodness remains alive in your heart and community. **[43:05]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In Judges 6:11-16, what is Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appears to him, and how does Gideon describe himself and his family?
2. What does the angel of the Lord call Gideon, and how does this differ from how Gideon sees himself? (**[10:40]**)
3. The sermon mentions that Gideon had to tear down his own family's idols before leading Israel. Why might it be important to confront issues or false beliefs in our own lives or families before helping others? (**[39:33]**)
4. Gideon needed repeated reassurance from God before stepping out in faith. Do you find yourself needing constant confirmation before obeying God? What would it look like to move from needing signs to simply trusting and obeying? (**[40:29]**)
5. The breaking of the clay pots allowed the light to shine out. Is there an area of brokenness or weakness in your life where you've seen God's light shine through? How can you encourage others with your story? (**[34:59]**)

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. As we read through what is to come, we put our faith and trust in You. There may be questions, but when we lean on You, those questions seem small and insignificant. Thank you for guiding us through this world and guiding us to You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."