*What is God Telling You to Do?*

Story of the Drug store.

***Scriptures:***

**12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.**

 **14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?**

Prayer.

 *What is God telling you to do?*

My message is very short tonight. I came by to simply ask you what is God telling you to do?

**Message:**

When we think of Gideon, we usually think about the statement, “Thou mighty man of valour.” But there is so much more in this story than just that or when he is fighting the medianites. This chapter has so many nuggets. It is so much like they way we act and think today. We talk one way but in reality, we think and do things another.

***To set the scene***, the children of Israel were disobedient. They had seen the mighty hand of the Lord delivering them out of the hand of bondage only to fall back on idol worship. They were living in sin, living in caves, which in effect was a sense of a guilty conscience. For 7 years, the invaders, which was a puny enemy, left no food for Israel, except what was taken into the caves. They prepared that for Baal, all the time when they should be worshiping and serving God. Now God justly sends an enemy to take it away in the season thereof. These were the same people the tribes had formerly reduced to a very low condition, and now are themselves unable to stand before them. **Do you see *how sin weakens men***?

One of the reasons why I love this story is not that Gideon did not like the enemy coming in to rob everything he had and was trying to hide some of it. He did not know his own capability, number one. Number two, he was not listening, he was only reacting. **(Boy, can we really preach a message on acting vs. reacting)** Number three, he did not know what God was telling him. He was so busy surviving or doing things that he could not listen or even be a leader. "Have not I sent thee?" Wow, what an inspiration. When "the Lord looked upon Gideon", the Lord saw something. **Wouldn’t it be wonderful when God looks upon us that he sees something!**

***Just give me a sign Lord***. Gideon is so funny…just like us. We have to have signs and miracles for us to do anything and at that, we are still reluctant to move as if we are saying, *“God are you speaking to me?”*

**The 1st sign** was found in verses 20 & 21, And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

 V. 21, Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

You would think that would be something to dance about.

The first point I want to make, is that God may be performing miracles for us each day but we may not realize it. Or we may think it is great but what does that have to do with me? God never does anything without a reason.

**The 2nd sign** is found when he was asked to do something. Verses 25-27, And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: {even: or, and} 26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down. {rock: Heb. strong place} {in the ordered...: or, in an orderly manner} 27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

Ver. 25,26 He was at once to set about cleansing his own house. Those who would serve God on anything should begin at home. He was not commanded to dedicate Baal's grove-temple to God, but to fell it; nor was he ordered to sacrifice to God upon the idol's altar, but to throw it down. Reformation cannot be too thorough. Unless we tear down with their nests the foul birds will come back. Gideon had a grand commission. He did not know if as of yet. One of which every true believer might rejoice to receive.

The second bullock--He was to offer one for himself, the other for the sins of the people, whom he was to deliver. The reference to the altar thy father hath-Which his father built on his own ground, though it was for the common use of the city.

As the story unfolds, something interesting happens. Do you remember his father standing up and saying if Baal was a god, why doesn’t he plead or stand up for himself? Even at the time of adversity, there are people who can be used for God’s purpose. They may be even followers in the church. That is why we need strong leaders to lead and stand up to follow God’s work. When God is asking us to do something, we must do it in order to gain victory, deliverance, or do mighty things. ***Story of the man in the dessert who was dying from thirst***.

We can have all the knowledge and understanding, we can quote God’s Word, but unless we step out and do something, take a course of action, it avails little. It is only lip service. It is a life of could bes or what ifs. What will God say when we stand before him? **Kind of like the guy who has buried his talents.**

**The 3rd sign** is found with Gideon’s fleece. (After all these things?) One was God showing something supernatural. The second one was delivering him out of hostility through his obedience. And now, he desires for God to show him a sign? “If you want me to do this Lord, you still have to prove yourself.” **That is just like us, isn’t it?** ***Story of the man drowning from a flood..fire truck, boat, and helicopter.***

Do we throw fleeces before the Lord? We shouldn’t but often we do. I don’t know why God wanted me to share this with you tonight. I could have focused on Gideon and his army defeating the Medianites. A tremendous story! I could have used Joshua being a mighty man of valor also on his way to Jericho meeting an angel of the Lord.

**I believe that God was wanting me to stop by and ask what is God telling us to do, stressing the point of him wanting us to listen to Him and step out in faith to do His work. The work is not over. There is still much to do.**

Sometimes, we as a church feel that our work is about done. We may not actually say this but we may look around and see what a beautiful building we have, we have a wonderful set of pastors, the music is great with a number of great workers throughout the church, almost to the point of slowing down, relaxing, or placing things on cruise control. Let me tell you a little secret, God’s work is never on cruise control. There is still a lot of work to be done.

***Story of the person at the telegraph office***. Sometimes we do not hear when God is sending out his message.

In closing, I want to ask you a simple question. If you are not hearing anything from God but once did, “Who moved, God or you?” Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He sticketh closer than a brother. He will never leave us nor forsake us. What is God telling you to do? Moses was 80 before he began his ministry. Daniel was 95 and still fasting and believing God for things, God still has a work for you to do, what is He telling you to do?

4 Keys of Hearing from God:

1. **The first key of hearing from God is to go to a quiet place, pray, meditate, and seek His will.** Psalm 37:7 we are called to “be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.”
2. **The second key is to simply ask God to speak to you. Many scriptures tell us to ask and ye shall receive. Not tell God what He wants.**
3. **The third key is to remove any doubt, fears, and carnal understanding. God works from a spiritual side. We sometimes think and move in the carnal. How often does God move beyond human or carnal thinking. Has he ever answered prayer beyond how we thought he was going to answer it?**
4. **The forth key is to fix the eyes of your heart upon Jesus, visioning/seeing in the Spirit what He wants us to do. Jack Nicholas, the best golfer of all time, would vision his shots and see it go in before he ever took a swing.** Habakkuk was actually looking for vision as he prayed. He opened the eyes of his heart, and looked into the spirit world to see what God wanted to show him.

Again, let me ask you this question, “What is God telling you to do? “ Or do we need to use one of these keys to get back to hearing what God has for the church and in our lives? He has a place for everyone, He has something for everyone to do regardless to our talents, He just wants us to be obedient and not give up. We are so close to the finish line. His work and our work is not finished.

Closing prayer.

***Story of the Drug Store:***

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication. It was beginning to rain so she rushed into the pharmacy. When she got back to her car, she had found out that she had locked her keys in the car.

She didn't know what to do, so she went back into the pharmacy and asked them if they could help. They shrugged their shoulders, gave her a coat hanger, and said, “Good Luck!”

When she came back out, it started to rain harder. It seemed the harder she tried, the harder it rained. She became frustrated to the point of yelling out, “God, I need your help and I need it now!”

Immediately, an old rusty car pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman rushed up to this man and asked, “Can you help me, I have locked my keys in the car and my daughter is sick at home needing this medicine, can you unlock my door and gave him the coat hanger.”

Within a minute, he had her door opened. Out of gratitude, the woman grabbed the man, gave him a big hug, and told him that he was a nice man.

The man pushed her aside and said, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour." The woman looked up towards heaven and cried, "Thank you Jesus for sending me a Professional!"

***Story of the man dying of thirst:***

A man on a camel rode through miles of the sun-drenched desert searching for some sign of life. His supplies were running low when his camel died. Now on foot, he desperately sought refuge from the heat, and, most importantly, a source for water. Suddenly, he came across an oasis.

He stumbled to a table with a waiter asking him if he needed anything. The man could barely speak the words, “water.” The waiter placed a cool glass of water on the table before him.

This man said, “I believe if I drink of this water, I will live.” He then said, “I believe if I drink of this life-giving water, I shall not die and shall surely live.” He then became spiritual and said more boldly and louder, “I believe that if I shall drink of life-giving water, the kind that will restore my soul, and thus save me from dying, I shall surely live!”

The man died. Do you know why? He never took any kind of action, he never drank anything, he just spoke words without any actions.

***Story of the man drowning:***

A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you." The stranded fellow shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me." So the rowboat went on.

Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you." To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." So the motorboat went on.

Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety." To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith." So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!"

To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"

***Story of the telegraph office:***

A man and his wife were traveling westward in search of new land and opportunities. As with many people, they ran out of money and provision and had to settle in a small town. The town was very small and only had a few jobs, which made it hard for this young couple to survive.

Suddenly one day, a man told him that the telegraph office was hiring someone today but he would have to rush over before someone else has the job. He rushed over and to his amazement, people were already standing outside. As he went inside of the office, there were people lined up every wall, each one staring at him as if to say to get to the back of the line.

He began hearing something. It was something coming across the telegraph. It was very loud and it kept sending the same message. Suddenly, this man ran past everyone in the office and entered into a door. Soon the office manager came out with his hands on the shoulders of this young man.

The manager stated that the job was filled and everyone will need to go home. People became furious and stated they were there before this young man showed up and it is not fair! The manager replied, “We sent out a message for all to hear. If you hear this message, the job is available to the first person who comes through the door.”

Everybody had the same opportunity, but only one person listened!