



### Winning Over Fear!

- i. Judges 6-8
- ii. 1191-1144 BC
- iii. The oppression of Israel by the Midianites.
- iv. The angel of the Lord calls Gideon.
- v. Gideon's first mission.
- vi. Gideon gathers the army.
- vii. Gideon asks God for 2 signs using a wool fleece.
- viii. God reduces the size of the army from 32k to 10k to 300.
- ix. Gideon receives encouragement from a dream given to a Midianite.
- x. Gideon conquers the Midianites using trumpets, pitchers, and torches.

### What can we learn from this story?

- Just as the nation of Israel was impoverished because of the oppression of the Midianites, our nation is spiritually impoverished because of the oppression of Satan. Signs of our spiritual poverty
  1. The need for increased security
  2. The moral condition of our society (Abortion-54,559,615; no fault divorce; sexual immorality-porn., fornication, adultery, homosexuality)
  3. The great falling away from the church

*“The Christian share of the U.S. population is declining, while the share of Americans who do not identify with any organized religion is growing. These changes affect all regions in the country and many demographic groups.” Pew Research Center-May 12, 2015*

- Just as the nation of Israel repented of their sin and cried out to the Lord for deliverance from their oppression, the church of Jesus Christ in our nation is crying out to the Lord for deliverance from our oppression.
- Just as the nation of Israel needed a deliverer to lead them to freedom, the church in our nation needs a deliverer to lead us to freedom.
- Just as the God provided a deliverer for Israel, God has provided a deliverer for the church in our nation, Jesus Christ.

- Just as God gave Israel signs that they should follow Gideon, God has given the church signs that we should follow Jesus.
- Just as the people of Israel had to decide to follow Gideon, the church must decide to follow Jesus.
- Just as God gave Gideon and Israel an unusual plan to win over their enemies, Jesus gave the church an unusual plan to win over our enemies.
  1. To reach the world Jesus envisioned every one of his followers becoming fishers of men.(Matthew 4:19; Mathew 28:18-20).
  2. To produce fishers of men Jesus used personal discipleship.(Luke 6:13).

What is personal discipleship? Jesus recruited 12 men and they were with Him. He was their intentional leader. They shared life together in a relational environment. He taught them and gave them a reproducible way to share truth with others. He then commanded those 12 men to do with others what He had done with them. They did. They kept reproducing fishers of men. They changed the world.

Today thousands of congregations are meeting across our nation in worship services? How can the church produce fishers of men in worship services that meet once a week?

We can't! We can reproduce a lot of good things in worship services but we cannot reproduce fishers of men.

The church has rejected the plan that Jesus used to produce fishers of men and expected to get the same results.

To reproduce fishers of men in the church we must follow the plan that Jesus used.

- Just as the people of Israel had to overcome fear to follow the Lord's plan, the church has to overcome fear to follow the Lord's plan.
- Just as the nation of Israel had to trust in God's power to overcome fear the church has to trust in God's power to overcome fear.

Gideon was full of fear. God called him a mighty warrior. (Judges 6:12)

What did God see that Gideon could not see?

What Gideon saw was that the nation of Israel was outnumbered 450 to 1.

What God could see was thousands upon thousands of angels that were at Gideon's side?

“God and you are a majority no matter how outnumbered you may feel!”

I am praying for God to give our church 300 fishers of men by 2020.

What do you need to do to become one of the 300 fishers of men?

1. You need to overcome fear and accept God's call to be a fisher of men.
2. You need to join a small group led by a fisher of men and be personally disciplined.

“Before you will become an intentional leader you must first be an intentional follower.”

3. You need to be sent out to fish for men with other disciples.
4. You need to be intentional about fishing for men.

Most people are very intentional about something. (Work, family, friendships, hobbies, entertainment.)

Nearly everyone is intentional about something. If you are not intentional about anything except satisfying your own desires, the bible has a name for you; sloth.

The church is in decline and our nation is spiritually impoverished because the vast majority of the church is not intentional about fishing for men!

Most church members are wanting and waiting for someone else to do it.

If not you, who? If not now, when?

Becoming intentional about anything important is difficult as first. There is a natural progression to being intentional about anything that is worthwhile.

- Desire
- Discipline
- Delight

To be a successful fisher of men you have to turn desire into discipline and keep grinding it out until discipline becomes a delight.

There are no short cuts to becoming a fisher of men. If there were, Jesus would have used it.

Jesus came to fish for you. Will you follow Him and become a fisher of men for Him?