

THE LEAST IDOLS

students

SCRIPTURES

Judges 6:11-15 NIV

11The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." 13"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." 14The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" 15"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

DID YOU KNOW???

- Gideon was a descendant of one Joseph's two sons, Manasseh. Obviously, several, several generations down the line. However many years down the road, he was still one of "Father Abraham's" millions of children that God promised him.
 - Here is the family line - Abraham - to Isaac - to Jacob - to Joseph - to his son Manasseh. All of the descendants of Manasseh are in that particular tribe.
 - According to Gideon, his clan was the weakest of them all, and their crops were constantly being stolen by the Midianites.
 - They worshiped Baal, god they believed help with crop fertility. Thus, they committed idolatry.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

Gideon felt small in life, insignificant if you follow me. First of all, the bible teaches us that his family lived in the caves of a mountain. They did this primarily due to their enemy, the Midianites, who were always pillaging their crops and harming their people. When their enemy would come, they would run to the mountain and hide. They felt inferior to them.

In their weakness, they worshipped idols such as Baal. In fact, Gideon's father had built an altar to Baal basically in their front yard. Well, an angel appeared to Gideon, letting him know that he was sent from the God of his fathers, the God of Abraham. He told Gideon that he was going to lead his people to victory against their enemy, the Midianities, and that it would honor the one true, living God.

Gideon was not sure how that would be possible. He told the angel that he was weak, and his clan was the weakest and the least. However, the angel told him that he would. The first thing he needed to do was take down the altar his father had built to Baal. That altar was built due to feeling like they needed help ensuring their crops would be safe from their enemies. However, false gods cannot save us or help us. Gideon's clan also was not spared from the Midianites even after worshipping Baal. That is until our God stepped into the picture to save them.

If you go on to read the rest of the story, you will learn that God took Gideon's army of 22,000 men and weeded men out until there were only 300 left. In this way, when Gideon won, it was clear that God had done it. They were outnumbered, yet God delivered them!

We can find ourselves in similar situations. Think about something that makes you feel inferior and weak. What have you don't to compensate for that? You have to be careful not to give yourself over to idolatry. Modern forms of idols do not appear in the same way as they did in bible days. Idolatry is really anything we give ourselves to that's not our God, wanting something in return. It's anything that consumes our time, energy, efforts, and praise. When you feel inferior just give those feelings to our God. Only he can help you win your battles!

WHERE DO I START?

Search out your insecurities. Is there anything that makes you feel inferior? Give that to God. Only he can help!

Pray about it. If you are going to give it to God, that means you need to pray about it!

Monitor your attention and time. Pay close attention to what you are spending all of your energy doing. God wants to be first in your life!

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