**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | People God Uses |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Hebrews 11; Judges 6-7 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2406 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Gideon was an ordinary man, but God used him mightily.
   2. Would you like God to use you? Will it make any difference that you lived?
   3. “He was born, he lived, he died.” Will that be true of you?
   4. Hebrews 11:32 gives a list of brave men and prophets who changed their world:
      1. Samson
      2. Jeptha
      3. David
      4. Samuel
      5. The prophets
      6. Gideon
   5. Will you leave a vacancy when you die? Will it make any difference that you lived? What is your life ultimately counting for? Who are the people God uses?
   6. These were dark days in Israel.
      1. The devil was winning victory after victory.
      2. The people of God had seemingly thrown in the towel.
      3. They didn’t expect God to do miracles or save multitudes.
   7. The same beliefs are true of our generation today.
      1. God’s hand cannot move.
      2. God’s cannot hear.
      3. God’s eyes cannot see.
      4. People think we cannot have a mighty revival today.
   8. No Scripture says we can’t have revival today.
      1. Many Christians are just simply waiting for Jesus to get here.
      2. There’s never been a greater age to live and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
      3. God wants you to be in the middle of it.
   9. Fearful, Gideon was hiding from the Midianites.
      1. The Angel of the Lord calls him a “mighty man of valor.”
      2. Gideon laments.
         1. God no longer helps His people—no more miracles.
         2. “God has abandoned us.”
         3. God is to blame for all their troubles.
         4. Today, many of us feel the same way.
      3. God says Gideon will go out and rescue Israel “Go in this thy might.”
      4. Gideon says he is poor and his father’s household is least is his tribe.
   10. Do not insult God by saying God cannot use you.
2. god uses common peaople
   1. Gideon was a fearful farmer, but God called him a man of valor.
      1. God did not see Gideon as he was, God saw him as he could be with God’s power upon him.
      2. It is not what you are in-and-of yourself.
   2. Judges 6:34 says, “*The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon*.”
      1. In the Hebrews it literally says, “*The Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon*.”
      2. It is not the man, it is God in the man.
   3. 1 Corinthians 1:26-27
      1. Paul is speaking to a group of early Christians God used to turn the world upside down.
      2. “*Wise men after the flesh*” means not many PhD’s.
      3. “*Not many mighty*” means not who are strong physically.
      4. “*Not many noble*” means people of high birth.
      5. “*Foolish*” in the Greek is the word we get our word moron from.
      6. “*Weak things of the world*” means those who are physically weak.
         1. God chooses the weak things of this world to confound the wise.
      7. It is not scholarship; it is relationship! It is not ability; it is availability. It is not fame; it is faith.
      8. God wants ordinary people to do extraordinary things so God Himself can receive the glory.
3. GOD USES CLEANSED PEOPLE.
   1. Baal is a filthy fertility god.
      1. People would sacrifice their children to Baal and commit fornication in the name of Baal.
      2. This is the same god that has taken over America.
      3. God told Gideon to take a bull, pull down the altar to Baal, cut down the trees around the altar and use them to build an altar to God and offer a blood sacrifice.
   2. If you want God to use you, you’ve got to take the idols out of your life.
      1. Modern-day America is filled with our idols.
      2. An idol is anything you love more, fear more, serve more or value more than God.
         1. You can make an idol out of your job, your own persona; anything.
   3. The problem with Gideon and his people:
      1. Their lives were stained with sin.
      2. They had forsaken God.
      3. They were serving idols.
   4. God will not use you if there is unconfessed, un-repented-of sin in your life.
      1. We must be clean if we want God to use us.
      2. God will not use us if there is any idolatry in our life.
   5. Is Jesus Christ number one in your life?
      1. If not, you have an idol somewhere.
4. GOD USES COURAGEOUS PEOPLE
   1. Judges 6:12
      1. “Valor” means courage.
   2. God is going to make Gideon a general.
      1. Gideon sent out a call and 32,000 people came to help him deliver Israel from the Midianites.
   3. God tells Gideon to send home all those who are afraid.
      1. Judges 7:2-3
      2. Two-thirds of them leave.
      3. Today, if you are a coward, God cannot use you.
         1. God is looking for mighty men of valor.
         2. God is not impressed by the size of a congregation.
            1. We can be many, and not much.
         3. God is looking for brave souls.
         4. God is looking for courageous people.
         5. God is looking for people who cannot be intimidated.
         6. God was not impressed by the size of Gideon’s army.
            1. The church may be growing, but so is the cemetery.
         7. God does not save by many.
         8. Fear fits you for failure, not fighting.
         9. Fear is infectious.
            1. Deuteronomy 20:8
            2. Fearful people infect others.
      4. God has not given us “a spirit of fear.”
         1. 2 Timothy 1:7
         2. The spirit of fear is like a fog that lingers in the air.
         3. God has given us the Spirit of power instead.
         4. Jesus said, “You shall *r*eceive power.”
            1. Acts 1:8
      5. 1 John 4:18
      6. Love removes fear.
         1. The question is not, “Are you brave enough?” The question is, “Do you love enough?”
   4. God has given us the spirit of a sound mind.
      1. 2 Timothy 1:7
      2. A “sound mind” literally means a mind that “cannot be stampeded.”
      3. A sound mind sees things as they are, not controlled by fear.
      4. Getting filled with the Spirit of God, you’ll find yourself unusually courageous.
5. GOD USES CAUTIOUS PEOPLE
   1. This is not a contradictory to the other points.
   2. Judges 7:4-8
      1. God arranges a test to see who among the remaining men are cautious.
         1. Most of them, 9,700 men, got on their hands and knees and drank directly from the water, exposing their neck to the enemy above.
         2. 300 men knelt down and spooned the water with their hand as they looked around; these were cautious men.
   3. God wants us to be both courageous and cautious; this is the balance of the Bible.
      1. Philippians 1:28
      2. 1 Peter 5:8
      3. We shouldn’t saunter forth saying, “There’s nothing to be afraid of.”
         1. The devil is a wicked, cruel, cunning, malevolent enemy, out to sabotage us.
      4. Matthew 26:41
      5. Mark 14:38
      6. 1 Corinthians 9:27
      7. We need to watch what we view on television or read in magazines.
      8. Be careful about the company you keep.
      9. Watch the places you go.
      10. There is an enemy that is real and we need to stay on your guard or God can’t use us.
   4. Winston Churchill said, “We must be ready at our weakest possible moment to meet anything the enemy brings against us at his strongest possible moment.”
   5. Sin is an unexpected opportunity, an unprotected life, and an undetected weakness.
      1. 1 Corinthians 10:12
6. GOD USES CONFIDENT PEOPLE
   1. Judges 7:12-15
   2. Gideon needs to understand that God is with him.
   3. God tells Gideon to get another man and go into the Midianite camp.
   4. God allows Gideon to overhear what the enemy is saying about him.
   5. One Midianite soldier tells another about a dream he just had.
      1. In the dream, a loaf of barley bread falls into a tent, causing it to collapse.
      2. The other man interpreted that the loaf of barley stood for Gideon and God’s people.
      3. Barley bread was the poorest quality bread.
      4. Gideon reported back to his army that they had won.
   6. Hell dreads the person of God who comes against it with confidence.
      1. The devil hopes you never understand who you are or what you have in Jesus Christ.
   7. Some people are too big in their own sight for God to use, but a man small in his own sight can still be used of God.
      1. God wants to do extraordinary things through ordinary people.
      2. Make certain your heart is clean and you’re filled with the Spirit.
      3. You have what you need to conquer the enemy if your heart is clean and you’re filled with the Holy Spirit.
      4. You may be only a piece of barley bread, but God is going to use you.
      5. There is a dread in Hell that one day God’s people will wake up as to who we are and what we have in the Lord Jesus.
   8. The soldiers in the tent were already afraid; that’s the devil’s crowd.
      1. Gideon was known in Hell.
         1. Are you known in Hell?
      2. You cannot have your name posted in Heaven’s Hall of Champions unless it is also posted on Hell’s bulletin board of enemies.
      3. Gideon was known in Hell.
   9. In Acts 19:11-20
      1. The 7 sons of Sceva tried to cast out a demon from a man .
         1. They said, “Come out in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches;” that is second-hand religion.
         2. The demon did not recognize them or their authority.
   10. Demons need to know you are courageous, cautious, confident God can use you.
7. CONCLUSION
   1. Would you like to live in victory? What difference is your life going to make? What is your life going to count for? Don’t say you’re just an ordinary person or too old, too young, too poor, too uneducated.
      1. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
   2. Make yourself available to God, and God will use you
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16