
Judges: R-rated Redemption

“The Call of God”

Judges 6: 1-17

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“When you’re so ashamed that you could die, God believes in you. And you can’t do right even though you try, God believes in you. Blessed are the ones who grieve, the ones who mourn, the ones who bleed. In sorrow you sow but in joy you reap. God believes in you.” Pierce Pettis

“God speaks to us: not only to move us to do what he wants, but to enable us to know him so that we may love him. Therefore, God sends his word to us in the character of both information and invitation. It comes to woo us as well as to instruct us; it not merely puts us in the picture of what God has done and is doing but also calls us into personal communion with the loving Lord himself.” – JI Packer, *Knowing God*, 110.

“I wish you'd see yourself as beautiful as I see you. Why can't you see yourself as beautiful as I see you?” - The Avett Brothers, "Will You Return?"

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- The cycle that forms the heart of the book of Judges changes a bit with chapter 6. Instead of immediately raising up a deliverer when the people cry out, God raises up a prophet.
 - Why do you think God sends a prophet instead of a deliverer?
 - Why did God send exposition of his word and a convicting message instead of relief/help?
- God’s call comes as an interruption and disorientation for Gideon.
 - Why would God push on the vulnerable places for Gideon in order to reach him? Why is the quickest path to someone’s heart often through a wound?
 - How has God’s call interrupted or disoriented you, your plans, and/or your life?
- Gideon seems to be mired in cynicism and in survival mode.
 - How are you susceptible to both cynicism and survival mentality, even as a believer?
 - What is attractive about these ways of thinking and living?
- In verses 12 and 15, Gideon’s self-assessment and God’s assessment of Gideon clash.
 - Which is right? Both?
 - What happens if we forget our sinfulness/weakness?
 - What happens if we forget our belovedness and dignity and agency?
 - How is this a picture of what it means to be a Christian?
 - What do you tend to forget, personally?
- Gideon, reluctantly and with great hesitation, answers the call of God.
 - How does God’s patience with Gideon encourage you in the midst of your own hesitancy and reluctance?
 - How does Gideon’s answer to the call of God compare to others in the grand sweep of Scripture?
 - Why does Jesus’ fulfilling the call of God give us hope, patience, and courage to answer God’s call ourselves?