



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 054 - The Cowardly Judge Judges 6-8

The angel of the Lord called Gideon a “mighty man of valor” (Judges 6:12b). But Gideon hardly showed himself to be a man of valor or courage. When the angel ordered him to tear down his father’s altar to Baal and his Asherah pole, he was too scared of the men of his town to do it in broad daylight. Instead, he snuck out to do God’s work under the black of night (see Judges 6:27).

- How much of yourself do you see in Gideon?
- Why would God choose such a coward to be His judge?

Gideon continued to show his cowardice when he asked for the fleece to be filled with dew and the ground dry, and then on the next day asking for the opposite to happen. Even on the battlefield God had to give him special encouragement (see Judges 7:9-15).

- What does this show you about God’s patience?
- What reassurance does this account—and the boldness God gave Gideon—give you about your own doubts and fears?
- What impact does it make on you to see the Lord work this great victory through 300 unarmed Israelites?

Gideon was a reluctant judge through whom God won a great victory for His people. But Jesus Christ was a willing judge and leader through whom God won the ultimate victory for His people. Jesus required no miracle for His own self-assurance. He refused to put His Father to the test, and He faithfully went unarmed to His death on the cross confident of the success of His mission.

- When Gideon saw God’s concern for him and for Israel, he worshipped Him. When you see God’s concern for you and all people in Jesus Christ, how is your life transformed?
- How does Jesus’ single-minded determination give you encouragement in your battles?

After the battle, Gideon did something that was good in his own eyes. He made a golden ephod to honor God who had given him victory. But the people of Israel came to worship it as an idol rather than Yahweh who delivered them.

- When have you done something you thought was good, only to find it distorted by others against God’s will?
- How could the good things we do for God at church, home, school, or work be distorted by those around us?
- How can we be more careful to try to prevent these distortions?