



SERIES: GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE

TOPIC: HOW GOD TURNS NOBODIES INTO SOMEBODIES– PASTOR ALTON TRIMBLE

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NOTE: God is a master of making champions out of what others devalue, despise and disapprove of.

1. Despised Shepherds: first to hear and share the news about Christ. [LUKE 2:8-20]
2. Moses: wanted murderer/slow of speech; lead Israel to freedom from slavery. [EXODUS 3:1-22]
3. Esther: a young Jewish girl; became queen of Persia and saved her people from annihilation. [ESTHER 2:1-8]
4. Demon possessed man living in tombs; set free by Christ/goes home and share his testimony. [MARK 5:1-20]
5. The Samaritan woman, a professional shaker]; met Christ and left preaching the gospel causing many to be saved. [JOHN 4:1-42]

JUDGES 6:11 *"The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak tree in Ophrah that belonged to Joash, his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites."*

- They were helpless, in despair, living in a cave.

JUDGES 6:12 *"The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and he said, 'The Lord is with you mighty warrior.'"*

QUESTION: SO how does God take a person who is afraid of their own shadow and turn them into his agent of great change?

ANSWER: There is a FOUR STEP PROCESS.

1. STEP ONE: AFFIRMATION

II CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NLT) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

JUDGES 6:13 *"But sir,' Gideon replied. 'If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all the wonders that the fathers told about us when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us out of Egypt? But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hands of the Midians.'"*

- GIDEON is making excuses and protesting his calling.

NOTE: God's response:

JUDGES 6:14 *"The Lord turned to him and said, 'Go in the strength that you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?' ... The Lord answered, 'I will be with you. You will strike down the Midianites as if they were but one man.'"*

2. STEP TWO: GOD'S REVELATION

JUDGES 6:17 *"If I've now found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it's really you talking to me. Please don't go away until I come back and bring an offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I'll wait for you to return."*

JUDGES 6:22 *"When Gideon realizes that it was the angel of the Lord he exclaimed, 'Ah, sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.'*

NOTE: God's response to GIDEON's fear:

JUDGES 6:23 *But God said to him, 'Peace. Don't be afraid. You're not going to die.'*

NOTE: GIDEON'S experience with God is causing him to become more relational in his behavior toward God.

JUDGES 6:24 *So Gideon built an altar. And he called it 'The Lord is peace' and it stands there to this day."*

3. STEP THREE: GIDEON'S CONFRONTATION

JUDGES 6:25 *"That same night the Lord said to him, 'Take the second bull from your father's herd, one of seven years old and tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah... Then build the proper kind of altar to the Lord, your God, on the top of this bluff and using the wood of the Asherah, that you cut down, offer the second bull as an offering.'" So Gideon took ten of his servants and he did as the Lord told him."*

God may test you in THREE ways!

- i. God may test you spiritually.

EXODUS 20:3 *You shall have no other gods before Me.*

- ii. God may test you emotionally.

- iii. God may test you physically.

JUDGES 6:28 *"In the morning when the men of the town got up, there was Baal's altar demolished and the Asherah beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the altar. They asked each other, 'Who did this?' When they carefully investigate they were told Gideon, son of Joash did it.' So the men of the town demanded of Joash his dad, "Bring out your son. He must die because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah beside it."*

JUDGES 6:31 *"Joash replied to the hostile crowd round him, 'Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you going to try to save him? If Baal is really a god he can defend himself."*

4. STEP FOUR: GIDEON'S TRANSFORMATION

JUDGES 6:34a *"Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon."*

- Notice how Jesus went into the test.

LUKE 4:1 (NKJV) *Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...*

- Notice how Jesus came out of the test.

LUKE 4:13 (NKJV) *Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.*