

“HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED—WHY?”

Judges 6:1-16 Sermon Text: Judges 6:12, 13, 14, 16

Today's lesson is the story of a man who, in spite of all circumstances and conditions, decided to obey God. This decision carried with it calculated risks. The Israelites had experienced 40 years of peace, because they were obedient to the Lord. When they decided to disobey the Lord He let the Midianites control Israel for seven years. These were cruel rulers who destroyed and ravaged the children of God's land. They took everything from the Israelites. So to bring them from under this brutal regime, God heard their prayers and sent Gideon.

Gideon was the least probable candidate, because he was not a famous person of power, but a regular man who was hiding out thrashing grain in a shallow pit. God's angel called Gideon a "strong warrior," the King James calls him "a mighty man of valor." The angels tell him that God has chosen him to speak to the people, tear down the idol gods, and chase out the enemies.

The classic response from Gideon in verse 13 is, "Why have all these awesome things happened?" He felt that God had broken His promise and abandoned them to the Midianites. Gideon, like you and I today, armed with the angels wanted some proof that God was really choosing to speak through him and would deliver a victory.

No person has ever gotten beyond the plateau of life whereby he/she has been exempted from having to ask—WHY? The Bible is full of accounts of those who questioned God's plan of action—Job, David and yes, even Jesus. We, too, wonder why—if God is so merciful, powerful and loving: why so much hatred among nations; why brutal wars; diseases with no know cure; violence and crime; untimely deaths; the good suffering and the bad prospering; and we wonder WHY, at times the righteous seem forsaken. EVER WONDER WHY?

Several suggestions I would like for you to consider when you, and you have or will, question God are:

I. The Secret Things Belong to the Lord our God – Deuteronomy 29:29

In other words there are things that you simply must have faith in God and trust that He will work them out.

II. A Second Consideration to Think About Is That God Is Working on an Altogether Different Thought Level. – Isaiah 55:8-9

How God decides to answer our prayers oft times is completely different than how or what we expect.

III. Another Thought to Ponder Is That God's Work Is a Different Style or Technique Other Than What We Are Accustomed to Experiencing.

When God decides to do anything, He performs it. It is hard for us to sometimes understand what God is doing because God is just not like us. Never forget—God is God and when God wills anything it is already done. God never changes the situation, but He satisfies the situation by always giving a solution!!

We have all asked God, 'Why,' but God has already seen where He wants to take us and what He wants us to receive. God will put us through the storm so that He can make us what He would have us to be. We can learn to turn opposition into opportunity.

When you ask why, be prepared for His answer and then obey it. Then you will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God knows best.

Learn God's plan for your life, accept it, obey it, and live it for His glory!