

Gideon

by Alexey Kobzar

This year the story that I felt like effected me most was the one about Gideon. Although I have heard it many times, I have never relized how I'm like him. For example, when the angel first came to Gideon, he was threshing wheat in a wine press because he was scared of the Midianites. Later in the story, Gideon to his fathers bulls at night, again becaus he was scared. In the same way I'm scared at times. One thing that I found very calming is that God, the creator of all things, chose the weakest, least important person to defeat the evil doers. This story helped me know now that God has a purpose for me, to reveal His glory somehow. I helped me because I feel so weak, helpless, low, and forgotten. When God called Gideon, he told him to take down his father's idols and sacrifice one of his bulls. And he did. That encouraged me to to right, even if it means I have to go against what they think is right. Also, when God let Jash, Gideon's father, see that the idols were fake, that meant that God can protect me, for His will of course. On top of all of this, it was crazy for me to find out that after all of this, Gideon still wanted not one, but two more signs. This left me thinking "Wow, so much disbelief," but then I relized that I would probably do the same thing, or even worse like fight and argue with God because it sounds unreasonable for Gideon and 22,000 other men to fight 135,000 men.

I can't imagine where he got so much faith from. He first started with like 22,000 men. Afterwards God told him to let those who are scared go home,



then only 10,000 men remained. After they had to drink ³⁰⁰ water. Those who put their lips to ground were sent away, but those who brought water to their lips with their palms stayed. That left Gideon with only 300 men. If I were him, I would argue for a long time. Like how are supposed to defeat 135,000 men with only 300 men. That means ³⁵⁰ that one man has to defeat 450 men. Now that's crazy, and impossible. In the end though, it all made sense why. God wanted to show everyone that He gave the victory and that He is still with his people Israel. It's fascinating that after all God did, he still gave Gideon more signs, because Gideon was still afraid. And I was ⁴⁰⁰ surprised that Gideon was still afraid, but after I thought about it, Gideon had enough courage and faith in God to go down with just him and his servant. This was one thing that I never knew about the story of Gideon; the dream there was a man who spoke ⁴⁵⁰ to his comrade about the cake of barley that destroyed their land. Then the comrade explained him that it was the sword of Gideon. This part surprised me, because I never heard this part of the story, the dream of the man. It made Gideon turn to and ⁵⁰⁰ worship God. He told his men to Arise. It was like he finally believed that they would win. After the war, I got astonished, another time. Due to, at the end, when God already did all the miracles and signs Gideon decided to make an ephod, which became a idol. Gideon ⁵⁵⁰ turned away and sinned more by having many wives. Once Gideon has died, Israel went back to worshiping Baal. This section showed me that I don't need miracles or signs to get saved, I need faith. It also pointed out that we are sinners, and we need a ⁶⁰⁰ Savior, who is Jesus to believe and be saved.