

2. Gideon followed:
 1. His word
 2. His whispers
 3. Through his fear
 4. FOR the smaller thing... making way for the BIGGER thing!
 5. FOR the FREEDOM of HIS own HEART...making way for the FREEDOM of many other hearts.
3. The RESULT of following:
 1. Room for GOD'S presence was made in Gideon's life through his obedience.
 2. God became his source.
 3. God showed Gideon he didn't need other options.
 4. No competition.

Challenge:

- Is there an altar needing to be pulled down?
- What is the thing God is asking me to do? _____.
It's time to do it!

Life Group Homework

For the week of October 6, 2019

MY STORY

1. What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten?
2. What was your takeaway from last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Judges 6:25-35(ESV)

That night the Lord said to him, "Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it ²⁶ and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down." ²⁷ So Gideon took ten men of his

servants and did as the Lord had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.

Gideon Destroys the Altar of Baal

²⁸ When the men of the town rose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that had been built. ²⁹ And they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And after they had searched and inquired, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing." ³⁰ Then the men of the town said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it." ³¹ But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down." ³² Therefore on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, "Let Baal contend against him," because he broke down his altar.

³³ Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. ³⁴ But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him. ³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.

4. What did God tell Gideon to do? Where was the idol located?
5. Why is the location of the idol significant?

God's call of Gideon required him to clean his house first. He needed to get his own spiritual affairs in order before he could be the man God was calling out of him.

6. What does the timing of the destruction say about Gideon?
7. What was the reaction of the people? Did Gideon have a reason to be concerned?
8. Who is Joash, and what does he do for Gideon?
9. What do Joash's actions reveal about what's going on in his heart?

TAKING IT HOME

Over the past several weeks there has been a theme of self-destruction concerning the peace the Israelites experienced. They brought things into their lives that destroyed the peace of God in their midst. In this story we see God calling Gideon to clean his house of the idols he and his family were the caretakers of. There is a principle of worship and idols that we will unpack in this section.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines an idol as:

a representation or symbol of an object of worship *broadly*: a false god, an object of extreme devotion

10. What are common idols in the world today?
11. If an idol is defined as an object of extreme devotion, what are some common idols in your life?
12. Is there a difference between a habit and an idol, and if so, what is it?
13. Can habits become idols, and if so, how?
14. What did Gideon do with his idols, and how does this set an example for us?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

15. Is there an idol that you need to clean out of your house that is contrary to God's will for you?
16. Re-read the story of Gideon in Judges Chapter 6 and think about the decisions Gideon had to make to be obedient to God's call.

Gideon Series - "Against the Odds"

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

October 6, 2019

Thread: It is God who leads us to PEACE and REST.

Passage: Judges 6:12, 25-32 (NLT)

"The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!'"
Judges 6:12 (NLT)

"'It is all right,' the Lord replied. 'Do not be afraid. You will not die.'"²⁴ And Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the Lord is peace"). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.

²⁵ That night the Lord said to Gideon, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it. ²⁶ Then build an altar to the Lord your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully. Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down."

²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town.

²⁸ Early the next morning, as the people of the town began to stir, someone discovered that the altar of Baal had been broken down and that the Asherah pole beside it had been cut down. In their place a new altar had been built, and on it were the remains of the bull that had been sacrificed. ²⁹ The people said to each other, "Who did this?" And after asking around and making a careful search, they learned that it was Gideon, the son of Joash.

³⁰ "Bring out your son," the men of the town demanded of Joash. "He must die for destroying the altar of Baal and for cutting down the Asherah pole."

³¹ But Joash shouted to the mob that confronted him, "Why are you defending Baal? Will you argue his case? Whoever pleads his case will be put to death by morning! If Baal truly is a god, let him defend himself and destroy the one who broke down his altar!"

³² From then on Gideon was called Jerub-baal, which means "Let Baal defend himself," because he broke down Baal's altar.

Gideon was included in the work of God because:

1. He believed God... **FAITH** *"The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!'"* Judges 6:12 (NLT)
2. He was **obedient** to God's clarity.
 1. The act of obedience **mattered** for Gideon to move on in God's plan.
 1. Someone has to go first.