

Living by Faith and not by Sight

Judges 6:17-40

Introduction:

A. In moments of indecision, what should we do?

1. Setting out a f_____ was not an act of faith by Gideon. Nowhere in the Bible is this kind of act encouraged.
2. We certainly should p_____ but in such a way that exhibits faith, not doubt.

B. Today we will learn what it means to live by faith and not by sight.

Are you living by faith?

Faith is based on the reality of God (17-27)

A. Gideon asked for a s_____ from the angel of the Lord to prove His identity.

1. A sign is something unusual or miraculous that is used to indicate something.
 - a. Unusual – Lk 2:12 gives the shepherds the sign that would indicate who the Christ child was – a babe wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a m_____.
 - b. Miraculous – Ex 7:3 tells us that God multiplied His signs (the ten plagues) in Egypt to indicate His supreme p_____.
2. The angel of the Lord did a miraculous sign
 - a. Fire from a r_____ that consumed Gideon's sacrifice.
 - b. He _____ before Gideon's eyes.
3. Gideon's response was one of f_____
 - a. *I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!*
 - b. He then o_____ God's command to tear down his father's pagan altars which his father made for the townfolk.

B. Application - God expects us to apply t_____ to make sure our faith is based on reality and not illusion.

1. We must test those who claim to be p_____
 - a) Deut 18:22 – must be 100% accurate in all p_____.
 - b) Deut 13:1-3 – must be 100% consistent with God's w_____.
2. I Jn 4:4 – we are to test the s_____ to see if they are really from God or not because of the many false prophets in the world.
 - a) Jehovah's Witnesses – deny the d_____ of Jesus, the sufficiency of His saving work, His physical resurrection from the dead, and more (contradicts God's word)
 - b) Mormons – believe in many gods and teach that faithful Mormons can become a god and rule their own p_____.

Doubt is based on the illusion of sight

- A. What caused Gideon to have his faith shaken? – what he s_____
- The Midianite army and their a_____ assembled against Israel in the Valley of Jezreel (the number was astronomical).
 - Gideon gathered _____ men for this battle (see 7:3)
- B. What did Gideon do to deal with his doubts? – set out a f_____ of wool.
- This act itself cast doubt on God's w_____ - *if you are going to deliver Israel through me*
 - Gideon's terms cast demands on God to w_____ in a certain way:
 - 1) Make the fleece wet by the m_____ dew and the floor around it dry.
 - 2) Make the fleece dry and the floor around it wet by the e_____ dew.
- C. Did the fleece setting rid Gideon of his doubts?
- One fleece test was not enough and so he demanded another.
 - After the second test, Gideon had _____ response (contrast this to his response after the angel of the Lord proved His identity in verse 22)
 - He did no more tests because he had to learn to live by faith and not by s_____.
- D. Application