

# JP2 SESSION 2



# GIDEON



## A. Come out of the winepress

What is the Winepress? Anything that stops you being what God has called you to be?

The enemy's tactics with Gideon - doubt, discouragement, depression, low self-esteem. We combat these by allowing God to determine who we are and not the enemy.

**Judges 6:11ff**

**1. Vs.13 If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened?**

*The winepress of doubt.* Look at my situation! Can you really say that God is with me when the evidence of my eyes proves otherwise?



Cf. Raquel Welsh, the actress, who has written a book on how to keep beautiful, wrote an article in a Sunday Newspaper, "I've acquired everything I wanted. Yet I'm totally miserable. I think it very peculiar that one can acquire wealth and fame and accomplishment in one's career, beautiful children, a life style that seems terrific, and yet be totally and miserably unhappy"

## 2. Where are all his wonders?

*The winepress of discouragement.* I've heard about all that the Lord has done but it doesn't seem to be happening for me!

## 3. The Lord has abandoned us and has sold us to Midian

*The winepress of depression.* We are doomed! God has given us to the enemy. There is no hope any longer, why should I bother?

## 4. Vs.15 How can I save Israel?

### Who am I?

*The winepress of Low Self*

*Esteem* My clan is the weakest in Manasseh; I am the least in my family. Look at where I am, where I have come from, what resources I have and it adds up to nothing!



## 5. Vs.17 Please give me a sign.

Please let me know that I mean something to someone.

**WHO AM I ?** All of us have had to deal with this to some measure or degree.

## WHO DOES GOD SAY I AM?

Gen 1:26-27 ..made in the image of God.

Psalm 8:5 ..a little lower than the angels ..crowned with glory and honour.

Jer. 31:3 loved with an everlasting love.

Eph. 1:4 ...chosen before the creation of the world.

Rom. 5:8 God demonstrated his love, while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

I Pet. 1:18-19 redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.

Rom. 5:1 justified with access into his grace.

Heb 10:17 forgiven (Eph 1:7)

Gal. 4:7 no longer a slave but a son, and also an heir.

Eph 2:6 seated in heavenly places.

Phil 3:20 citizens of Heaven.

Rom 8:1 Therefore no condemnation for those in Christ.

**WHO AM I ?** Just a teenager with handicaps that will never amount to anything, so why bother?

**WHO AM I ?** Just someone who has failed everything I've tried and I'm just too tired to get up and try again.

**WHO AM I ?** Just an old person whose joints ache all the time.

**WHO AM I ?** Just a small nobody who the others in school pick on all the time.

**WHO AM I ??** Just the kid who is always the last to be chosen for the team.

We have allowed other people and their opinions to identify who we are; when we must allow God to identify and call us as we really are. That's what he wanted to do for Gideon, "The Lord is with you, mighty Warrior!"

We've got to **COME OUT OF THE WINEPRESS !**

## **WARNING**

***There is another danger of living in the winepress:- it can get very sour in there! Things can go off. Usually people end up knocking those who try to live outside the winepress or others in the winepress with them. One sign of a person that is struggling with their own identity and direction and feelings of self-worth is that they criticise others, especially when they hear people saying things like.... "Saul has killed 1000's but David 10's of 1000's"***

Sometimes the devil knows better than we do just exactly who we are. You see he is not scared of anything that you have done, or of where you are at the moment. But he is petrified at what God's people can achieve if they start to realise who they really are in Christ.

## **B. Send them home Gideon**

Life outside the winepress is just you and God and then those whom God will send along.

When God calls you, it is you he calls. You don't need to bring anyone with you. God called Gideon and he gathered an army together. But God saw that it was too large.

Ch.7:3 "Anyone who is afraid, please go home!" 22,000 left leaving 10,000.

That's over 2 thirds of the army - catastrophe?

Verse 4; The Lord says that there are still too many. 10,000 people. So in verses 5&6, Gideon separates off 300 men who have the vision, who share the common goal, who are ready for action. The others were told to go back to their tents.

So don't cry over the doors that the Lord has closed in your life. He might well have saved your life. He knew if you had gone in that certain direction that people would have lured you away from the vision. And don't expect everyone to understand you - they won't!

BUT Judges 7:7 With the 300 I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. This passage is not about the majority who were not equipped to do the task, but about the 300 who were!

**Verse 17.** Watch me, Follow my lead, do exactly as I do. The picture is of a closely knit group perfectly in tune with the leadership's vision, flowing together as one man.



**Verse 22.** It was when the Lord heard the trumpets of the 300 that He caused the enemy to turn on each other.

**Verse 24.** Then, when the initial task was done, Gideon invited others to join in and help.

Therefore in your life there are those that God has called you to work with and fellowship with and to get alongside. It is essential that we take this seriously. It is sad when most of some people's grievances concern

their church life and some individuals within that church. This is wrong and has to change.

. The Parable of the Geese

In Autumn, when Geese head south for the Winter, they fly in a V formation. Why? Well ,as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately behind. By flying this way, the flock increases its flying range by at least 70%. When the leading goose gets tired, it rotates back and another flies point. Geese honk from behind to encourage those in front to keep up their speed. When a goose gets ill or wounded, one or two of the others will follow it to the ground to lend help and protection. They stay with it until it is either well enough to fly again or it dies.

John 15:12 “This is my *command*, love each other.”

Ex.18:23 God *commands* that you involve other people in your life.

Psalm 133 How good & pleasant...dwell together in unity.. God *commands* the blessing.

We need each other..

**Romans 12:5** In Christ, we who are many form one body, each member belongs to the others.

**1 Corinthians 12:18** God has arranged the parts of the body - just where he wanted them to be.

**Ephesians 4:11ff.** Christ gave gifts ... to prepare God’s people for works of service...

**Philippians 2:4** Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:12**, the Lord’s Prayer, that we should pray this way, ‘Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.’ But repeats in verse 14, ‘For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.’

**Ephesians 4:26/27** In your anger do not sin; Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Verse 29 Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, & every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ***Don’t give the devil a foothold !***

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