

Judges 6:25-40 How the Mighty Have Risen, pt 2
2/1/09 - The Exchange

- I. 6:1-10 Sin, servitude, supplication.
 - A. The people cried out, God sends a prophet, no specific sense of their response to his message.
 - B. Really spending time on this because we haven't seen this preparation phase yet.
- II. 6:11-40 Salvation; preparation <-- this is the point,
 - A. Riff on preparation
 - 1. 6 is preparation, 7 and 8 are salvation in action, end of 8 is the end of Gideon.
 - 2. The point of preparation is to get ready to do something.
 - a) We prepare to prepare. Come to church, get dressed, food, shopping, etc.
 - b) Everything in your life has led you to, prepared you for this moment. Which moment? This one. Now, or in two hours, then, now, soon.
 - c) Preparation is the process of being changed, from being one way into being another way. Involves body, feelings, beliefs, views, perspectives, perceptions. **Not everything fits in a box.**
 - 3. God is always preparing us for the next thing. Shaping, breaking, molding. Everything God calls us to requires that we trust in Him.
 - 4. God prepares us to trust in Him, by putting us in situations where we have to trust in Him.
 - B. 6:11-24 The call.
 - 1. 6:11-12
 - a) Sometimes God is speaking to you, and you don't even know it. Yet... me as a teacher. Tech trainer, pastor.
 - b) God sees us as we will be, not as we are. God sees us as we are, not as we are.
 - 2. 6:13 Big mouth, little heart.
 - 3. 6:14 might of yours - Use your powers for good, not evil. Bossy kids make good leaders someday?
 - 4. 6:15-18 Gideon's testing-faith cause him to work. Show me and I'll believe vs. believe and I will show you.
 - 5. 6:19-24 When God is calling, make yourself available to Him. Isaiah 6:8 "here I am" Romans 12:1-2, living sacrifice.
 - C. 6:25-27 Baby steps
 - 1. 6:25-26 "You want me to do what?" The Lord knows what we need to get us to where He wants us.
 - 2. 6:27 Faith is not demonstrated by fearlessness, but by obedience. (Bob Davis)
 - 3. New believer parallel. Coming to the Lord for the right reasons will result in right actions done for the right reasons.
 - D. 6:28-35 The Catalyst

1. Catalyst - an agent of change. This is Gideon's catalyst. This is the people's catalyst. Chemistry, story telling, Star Wars (Luke's family dying).
 2. My catalyst moment in college. Fear of failing expectations. It's key to preparation.
 3. 6:28-32
 - a) A changed life gets noticed. It either angers or inspires because change is evident in actions.
 - b) When the thing we have been trusting in has failed us, it isn't punishment from the Lord, it's an opportunity to draw closer to the Lord. It's part of being prepared. A god/ religion/philosophy, money, a person, car breaking down, familiar element at church.
 4. 6:33-35 What is the agent of change? The Spirit of God by means of the word of God.
 - a) Contrast Gideon from v. 13 to 34.
 - b) Clothed with the Spirit.
 - (1) Christian, what are you wearing? Do you put as much into your physical apparel as your spiritual?
 - (2) Put off the old man, put on the new.
- E. 6:36-40 The groove. Two steps forward, one step back.
1. What happened? From blowing the trumpet to trying to find a way out.
 2. There is a difference between wanting to confirm God's direction and trying to weasel your way out of it. Me and Bill's call.
 3. What is the difference between before and after Peter, filled with the Spirit"?
 4. Be being filled must mean it's possible to not be being filled. You can run out. Happens to me at least once a week!
 5. In the end, God's word is confirmed and Gideon obeys despite his fear.
- III. What is the Lord preparing you for? Are you fighting it? Are you looking for a way out? Do you want to give up? Are you trying to do it in the flesh? Surrender. Let the Lord melt you, mold you, fill you, use you.