

**“Cleaning House”**

Judges 6:25-40

**BACKGROUND OF THIS STORY**

1. Judges 2:6-15: The grief & tragedy of a generation who does not know the LORD.
2. Judges 6:1-10: The Midianites oppressed Israel. Sin plunders us the same way.
3. Judges 6:11-24: The LORD visits Gideon, hears his cry and calls him a “mighty man of valor.” v.12
  - Gideon doesn’t see himself the same way: “my clan is the weakest...and I am the least.” v.15
  - “The LORD is with you.... But I will be with you.” v.12,16

**GIDEON GETS HIS HOUSE IN ORDER (BY DESTROYING THE ALTAR OF BAAL) v.25-27**

1. The LORD told Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal & replace it with an altar to the LORD. v. 25-26
  - Pull down the altar of Baal & cut down the Asherah that went with it. v.25
  - The Asherah was a wooden pillar/pole representing a sacred tree (from the Canaanite pagan religion).
  - Build an altar to the LORD your God and give a burnt offering on it. v.26
2. Gideon did what the LORD commanded. v.27
  - Narrator note: But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town he did it by night.

**GIDEON GETS A NEW NAME—“JERUBBAAL” (AND SOME NEW ENEMIES IN HIS HOME TOWN) v.28-32**

1. The men of the town were not happy that their altar of Baal was pulled down. v.28-29
2. They sought out Gideon to kill him. v.30-31
  - Gideon’s father, Joash, reasoned with the men: If Baal is truly a god, let Baal kill Gideon.
3. Gideon was called “Jerubbaal” = “Let Baal contend against him”. v.32

→ Application: What spiritual truth is demonstrated here?

-6:24: “Gideon built an altar to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace.”

-6:25: Gideon pulled down the altar of Baal.

-6:26: Gideon built another altar to the LORD.

-James 4:4: *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

-2 Timothy 3:12: *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*

-Galatians 5:16: *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

**GIDEON GATHERS AN ARMY (AND SOME ADDED ASSURANCE) v.33-40**

1. The Midianites prepared another attack. v.33
  - They gathered with the usual crew (ref. 6:3) in the Valley of Jezreel.
2. Gideon also gathered an army to fight them. v.34-35
  - The Spirit of the LORD “clothed” Gideon and he sounded the trumpet to gather other tribes to fight.
3. Gideon sought assurance from God through ‘the sign of the fleece.’ v.36-40
  - Psalm 103:13-14: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.