

## AN UNCERTAIN ENCOUNTER

Judges 6:11-23, 36-40

Judges 6:22 “When Gideon realized that it was an angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, “Ah, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!”

Purpose: To fortify our faith.

Proposition: God reassures His people.

Introduction:

#Video clip from The Apostle when the character does not hear from God, he asks for a sign.

1. In human experience we have questioned God’s presence and approval.

#Am I imagining God? Is He directing me or is this merely what I want? If something is what I want then more than likely I think God does not want it.

2. Gideon was the doubting Thomas of the Old Testament.

3. Let’s recount God’s ministry to a fearful and questioning person:

I. “Why has all this happened?” (13).

A. When the Lord’s angel said, “You are a courageous person,” Gideon responded with the inquiry, “Then why are things happening to us?”

1. Israel is cycling from faith to defection.

2. Israel’s sin is the reason God allows the Midianites to invade Israel.

3. Israel began to worship idols.

4. The Midianites ravage the crops from Israel.

5. Gideon sees God’s favor has been withdrawn.

B. “The Lord is with you” (12).

1. Gideon questions; he presents present doubt.

2. Gideon recounts how God used to help.

3. Gideon concludes God has abandoned Israel (13).

II. “I am not worthy or capable.”

A. God reissued His call.

1. Gideon protests, “How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest and I am the least of my family”(15).

2. Gideon’s doubts expanded focusing on his inadequacy and weaknesses.

3. God says, “Go in the strength you have” (14).

4. “Am I not sending you?” (14).

B. God reassured yet again, “I will be with you” (16).

1. You will strike down the enemy (16).

2. Gideon possessed an insatiable need for reassurance.

3. God affirmed His solidarity and union with Gideon.

III. “I need a sign.”

A. God gives Gideon a sign upon request.

1. God caused fire to ignite Gideon’s sacrifice.

2. Fire flaring out of a rock would have been enough to convince most of us.

3. God goes to some effort to confirm His call upon our lives.

B. “I’m going to die”

1. Realizing he had seen the messenger of the Lord, he thought he was going to die.

2. God put him at ease, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.” (23)

3. Because of close contact with God others such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel thought they were going to be killed.

- IV. “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised . . . “ (36).
- A. God once more reassures Gideon.
1. God makes the sheepskin wet and the grass dry.
  2. Gideon wrings the water out of the fleece.
  3. We would think this is sufficient evidence, but not Gideon.
  4. He asks for the fleece to be dry and the ground wet.
- B. God accommodated Gideon’s uncertainty.

Conclusion:

1. Gideon required a reinforced faith.
2. The physical realm can open the eyes to the spiritual.
3. In verse 34, “The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon.”  
#Literally, “The Spirit of the Lord put on Gideon” like a garment.
4. God today wants to wrap Himself with your body.
5. He wishes to live in you and to work through you.
6. Let’s invite Him in, even amid our doubts.

Assurance

Lord with you (12)  
 Mighty Warrior (12)  
 Go in strength you  
                   you have (14)  
 I am sending you (17)  
  
 I will be with you (16)  
 You will strike down  
                   enemy (16)  
 Fire flowed from  
                   rock (21)  
 Ask for fleece to  
                   be wet (37)  
                   then dry (39)

No Confidence

Why all this happening?(13)  
 Lord abandoned us (13)  
 Cannot accept mission (15)  
  
 My clan weak and I am  
                   least (15)  
 Give me a sign (17)  
  
 I saw the angel of the Lord,  
           I am going to die (23)  
 If you will save Israel (36)