

A dramatic landscape of rolling hills under a sunset sky. The hills are covered in golden-brown grass, and the sky is filled with large, billowing clouds illuminated by the setting sun. The overall mood is one of awe and inspiration.

GIDEON'S COURAGE



The Courage to Encounter

Judges 6:17-24

“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

“The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor! ... Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you? ... I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” (Judges 6:12, 14, 16)

Courage is the ability to confront something painful or difficult or dangerous *despite* any fear.

As followers of Jesus, we have a promise that equips us: The Lord is with us, will be with us, and He is always working.

Lesson # 1 is to cultivate the
COURAGE TO ENCOUNTER.

Judges 6:17-18 (ESV)

17 And [Gideon] said to [the angel of the LORD], “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. 18 Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.”

Judges 6:19 (ESV)

19 So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them.

Judges 6:20 (ESV)

20 And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so.

Judges 6:21 (ESV)

21 Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.

Judges 6:22 (ESV)

22 Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."

“The most interesting [narratives of the Old Testament] are those [in] which [readers] are not really able to distinguish between the Lord and His angel, and which therefore do not take the angel only as a messenger, but as a form of manifestation of the Lord Himself. The angel of the Lord is the Lord Himself appearing in human form.” (Von Rad)

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the
hands of the living God.”
(Hebrews 10:31)

“And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost [ruined]; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; [and] my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’”

(Isaiah 6:5)

“But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’” (Luke 5:8)

“And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’” (Mark 4:39-41)

“We have no real sense of the terror and awesomeness of God, for we think intimacy with God is an inalienable right rather than an indescribable gift. There is nothing amazing about grace as long as there is nothing fearful about holiness. But, thankfully, Gideon knew better. Nothing is more assuring than God’s *‘I will be with you;’* nothing is more overwhelming than the fact that it is God who’s says it.” (Davis)

“‘Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion.’
‘Ooh’ said Susan. ‘I’d thought he was a
man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather
nervous about meeting a lion’ ... ‘Safe?’
said Mr. Beaver ... ‘Who said anything
about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s
good. He’s the King, I tell you.’” (Lewis)

Judges 6:23-24 (ESV)

23 But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it YHWH SHALOM, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

In his encounters with the Lord,
Gideon models for us courage both in
his raw AUTHENTICITY and in his
appropriate AWE.

To apprentice under Jesus is to organize your life around three driving goals: 1) to be with Jesus, 2) to become like Jesus, and 3) to do as He did.



Begin your
day on your
knees before
the Lord.



Scripture
before work



A midday
reset