



25th August 2024
LSBC

***Ordinary people,
extraordinary God***

JUDGES 6 – 8

ELDER EDWIN CHUA
PPH BRETHERN CHURCH





Book of Judges

Israel had 15 judges
(including Eli and Samuel)

Gideon's story:
100 verses in 3 chapters

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The weakness of Israel (Judges 6:1-6)
- 2 The strength of her enemies (Judges 6:2-6)

**The extraordinary God intervenes
in human affairs because He cares**

- 3 Territory of the ordinary
– knowing Gideon
- 4 Territory of the extraordinary
– knowing God



A nation in hiding

A description of weakness

Judges 6:2

“Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves, and strongholds.”



Economic exploitation by her enemies

Description of strength

Judges 6:4-6

“³ **Whenever** the Israelites planted their crops, the **Midianites, Amalekites** and other **eastern peoples** invaded the country. ⁴They camped on the land and **ruined the crops...** and **did not spare** a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys.

Economic exploitation by her enemies

Description of strength

Judges 6:4-6

⁵They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it.

⁶Midian so impoverished the Israelites ...”

How many?

“They came up with their livestock and
their tents like swarms of locust.
It was impossible to count them or their camels.”
(Judges 7:12)

¹⁰ ...their armies with them, about 15,000,
all who were left of all the army of the people
of the East; for 120,000 men who drew
the sword had fallen
(Judges 8:10)

Israel was doomed

The story of the Israelites

When they ran out of options they prayed

Judges 6:6 (ESV)

“⁶ And Israel was brought very low because of Midian.
And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.”

IT WAS A CRY OF **DESPERATION**

NOT A CRY OF **REPENTANCE**

The extraordinary God

Judges 6:8-10

“⁸ The LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And He said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery (where they were before).”

The extraordinary God

Judges 6:8-10

⁹ And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you (God's delivered them from oppression), and drove them out before you (God defeated their enemies) and gave you their land (God's gave them the land)

The extraordinary God

Judges 6:8-10

¹⁰ And I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God;
you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites
in whose land you dwell.'
But you have not obeyed my voice."

The extraordinary God

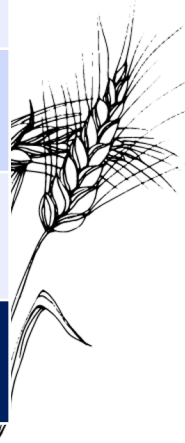
**Before they repented,
God delivered
This is GRACE**

Romans 5:8

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

	Tribes			Tribes	
1	Judah	74,600	7	Reuben	46,500
2	Dan	62,700	8	Gad	45,650
3	Simeon	59,300	9	Asher	41,500
4	Zebulun	57,400	10	Ephraim	40,500
5	Issachar	54,400	11	Benjamin	35,400
6	Naphtali	53,400	12	Manasseh	32,200

Numbers 1:1- 34 (Men above 20 years: 603,550)



The territory of the ordinary: Who was Gideon?

Tribe	Manasseh – the smallest tribe
Clan /village	Abiezrite/Ophrah (unheard of)
Ancestry	No famous ancestors
Personality	Cautious, inhibited, apprehensive
Ranking	Judges 6:15

Why was Gideon chosen?

He had no unique qualities or special capabilities

He tested God three times

Judges 6:17-18

Judges 6:36

Judges 6:39

Self-doubt or faithless?

Gideon had self doubt, not low faith

Judges 6:15

“¹⁵ Gideon replied, “but
how can I save Israel?”

My clan is the weakest in Manasseh,
and I am the least in my family.”

Gideon had self doubt, not low faith

Judges 6:36-37

“³⁶ So Gideon said to God,
“If You will save Israel
by my hand
as You have said... “

Let's compare the numbers

Gideon

The Midianites, Amalekites
and the people of the East

Judges 7:3, 7

Judges 8:10

From 32,000
To 10,000
Finally, 300 (0.938%)

Size: 135,000

300 men v 135,000 enemies
0.22%
1:450

Self-doubt is not unbelief
Doubt can exist within faith

Self-doubt

**We feel inadequate because
we don't understand the equation**

Unbelief

**When God is completely
taken out of the equation**

Self-doubt is not unbelief

Doubt can exist within faith

Luke 1:34

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,
“since I am a virgin?”

Exodus 3:11

“But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to
Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

ordinary crossing over to extraordinary

What did God see in Gideon?

Hebrews 11

Gideon, Samson, Jephthah, Samuel

Heb 11:32-34

³² ... For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon
and Barak and Samson and Jephthah,
also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who
through faith subdued kingdoms...
out of weakness (**ordinary**) were made strong
(**extraordinary**), became valiant in battle..."

Filmmaker Jack



**“There are two types of money.
If it has been spent, it is money.
If it has not been spent, it is paper,
and eventually it becomes inheritance.”**

Biblical faith

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please God,
because anyone who comes to Him must believe that
He exists

AND

that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Galatians 5:6

“Ultimately what matters is faith that is
expressed in obedience.”

FAITH

A movement towards God

What did God see in Gideon?

Faith

In the crisis Gideon was “God pondering” and identified with God’s people

Judges 6:13

¹³ And Gideon said to him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

Gideon presented a costly offering to God

He built an altar to God

He demolished the altar of Baal

He accepted the elimination of his troops

He faced the enemies in battle

“¹⁹ So Gideon went into his house and prepared
a young goat and unleavened cakes
from an ephah of flour..”

Judges 6:17-19

“²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD
and called it, The LORD Is Peace.”

Judges 6:24

“¹⁵ When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and
its interpretation, that he worshipped.”

Judges 7:15

Motion detectors

**When God detects motions of faith,
power is activated**

Mark 11:22-25

²² And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. ²³ Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

Cross over

“Ordinary” territory	“Extraordinary” territory
Ephesian 2:10	Matthew 10:7-8
“¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”	⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”
God is pleased with good works Many are grateful when we do good Seek opportunities to do good	Many needs cannot be met unless there is a miracle. Many problems cannot be solved unless God intervenes.

God wants us to know Him and experience Him

Matthew 10:7-8

²² And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

**There is a big difference between
YOU feeling good about
what is done to help people, and
OTHERS feeling astonished
by what God has done
for them through you.**

We can identify with Gideon

We identify with his weakness and ordinariness

We cannot identify with Gideon

We do not identify with Gideon's spectacular achievements.

We believe in the supernatural, but we don't expect great miracles to be accomplished through us.

Stories of ordinary people in “extraordinary” territory

JC's first encounter with the miraculous

JC's first encounter with demons

EC's encounters a divine appointment

Joey encounters a miracle moment

What is a miracle?

*A miracle is an extraordinary event revealing
divine intervention in human affairs*

*It is God's work, by God's power,
through a delivery agent.*

God wants ordinary people to be willing partners in the “extraordinary” territory

Clay vessels will do (2 Cor 4:7)

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

“²⁷But God has **chosen** the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has **chosen** the **weak things** of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the **base things** of the world and the **things** which are **despised** God has **chosen**, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.”

Summary

1. Our ordinariness is never an issue with God
2. God will work with any ordinary person, with faith
Gideon's faith was the reason why he was chosen
3. Our work is good, but God's work is extraordinary
4. God intervenes in human affairs because He cares
5. God wants willing partners as His delivery agents
6. Look for miracle moments because God is ready to use you

