

Unlikely Heroes: Gideon – Zero to Hero: Overcoming Inferiority 2

TEXT: Judges 6:1-35

Intro: We are going to pick right up where we ended two-weeks ago, as we were learning from the self-proclaimed “least likely” hero, Gideon. On Gideon’s journey from Zero to Hero we learned.

- The Lord knows where you live, even if you’re off the grid.
- Like Gideon – God sees a Hero in You
- The Making of a Hero begins in the heart.
- Heroes are born when we shift from “*what have you done for me lately?*” to KNOWING He IS at work & REMEMBERING what He has already accomplished

Judges 5:12-16 Gideon, our hero, is down in a hole when the Lord shows up and says, “*Mighty hero, the Lord is with you.*”

- ❖ Gideon’s feelings of inferiority lead him to respond two ways.
 - Gideon was quick to blame God: vv.12-14
“Where are the miracles of our fathers? If you are with us, why has this happened to us? Where were you at God?”
 - Gideon blamed God for his situation, what about you?
 - Gideon was SLOW to trust God – v.15 Like Gideon too many believers think they are the “least likely” hero.
 - What are yours? What are the things that you believe you’re the least of the least at?
 - Do you let your circumstances define your faith or does your faith define your circumstances?

Inferiority & feelings of inadequacy keep too many from becoming the HERO they are meant to be.

- ❖ Feeling inferior &/or inadequate can reveal itself in many ways:
 - Overly Sensitive – do small critical comments *REALLY* upset you and get you feeling depressed and upset for days.
 - Do you compare yourself to the BEST qualities of others? Remember, they have areas of improvement too.
 - Act inferior “social rank theory”- Do I behave how we feel inside?
 - Perfectionism - to a perfectionist, nothing they do is good enough
 - Inaction - Do your feelings keep you from taking action, meeting people, or trying new things. Not being good at something is the 1st step at being kinda good at it.
 - Does Social Media make you feel guilty, jealous, or ashamed?

- Do you find yourself being overly judgmental of others?

How do you overcome inferiority?

- ❖ Let God change your self-image. Judges 6:16, Romans 12:1-2
 - Destroy the lies you’ve believed, confess your new identity, & stop comparing yourself to others. Gideon compared himself, his family, & his tribe to others; don’t fall in the same trap.
 - Overcoming the fear of inadequacy requires changing our thinking patterns. Occasionally God nudges us to do something far beyond our comfort zone – serve at church, serve on the PTA or your HOA, provide foster care, or go to lunch with someone you don’t know too well.
 - Our natural tendency might be to think, Who, me? I can’t do that! We find courage to say yes by filling our minds with His truth. Philippians 4:13
 - Your strength isn’t held by you alone, but also by the people who march alongside you. When you feel unequal to the task in front of you, perhaps it is simply because you aren’t using all your strength.
- ❖ Admit our fear is another step toward freedom.
- ❖ Obey God! Move forward despite the fear.
 - Gideon received instructions from the Lord to destroy the altar of Baal, his family & community had been worshipping. And build an altar to the Lord God and make an offering on it.
 - Gideon was afraid, but obeyed. “Just because you feel fear doesn’t mean you can’t do it. Do it afraid.” – Joyce Meyer
 - God met his faith at the level of his obedience.
- ❖ Let His Spirit transform you! v34
 - Feelings of inferiority aren’t overcome in your own strength. It is the Holy Spirit who changes us. Self-image must be overcome if you will fulfill your purpose.
 - Be faithful in the small things even when afraid or uncomfortable. Small acts of obedience lead to larger ones. What began as tearing down a small altar, led to taking 300 into battle against 135,000.
 - An encounter with God transformed Gideon, but it was through his obedience that the call was awakened. v.34

What new opportunities lay before you?

What dreams lay hidden in your heart? Don’t let the fear of inadequacy hinder you from fulfilling God’s purpose for your life.

**Take courage, move forward,
and watch as fear takes flight.**