Murray Baptist Church – 10/20/20 – Bible Study Outline – Judges 6

**Judges 6 – The Preparation of Gideon**

V1. – the beginning of this chapter reminds us of the pattern of disobedience and the cycle it produces.

* The pattern begins with “The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord…”
	+ You don’t see in the pattern that the Israelite did evil in their own eyes. As human being we don’t often see or we easily rationalize away when we do evil. Who knew the rapper Ice Cube would have a lyric that would speak to this. His words were: “You better check your yo self before you wreck yo self.” (I don’t recommend reading the rest of the lyrics as they are not very family friendly).
	+ If we won’t catch ourselves, then God needs to do it, which leads to another element of the patten…
* “He gave them into the hand of the…” It is not stated in the same times in every situation, but the sentiment is the same.
	+ The evil doing by the Israelites causes a reaction by God
	+ The group who would overtake and oppress them were the Midianites

Vs.2-5 – These verses show two things

* First, the result of doing evil before God
* Second, the motivation for them to cry out to God
	+ They had oppressive and abusive power
	+ Israelites did from them whenever and wherever they could
	+ The Midianites would frequently invade, ruin crops (food supply), would kill anything in their paths that belonged to the Israelites (that is, if they didn’t steal it), and ravaged the land, then they would go back to their own territories to live

Vs. 6-7 – Identify something that we can still learn from in 2020

* The people cry out for help (it is unified, it is communal)
* It wasn’t a cry of or for individual relief, it was a cry for corporate relief

V. 8-10 – God’s response – he sent them a prophet (this one forthtells and reminds them of what God has done in the past)

* In the midst of this story of God’s deliverance of the Israelites through the means of the judges, God reminds us that the cause of this national calamity was their sin, their unfaithfulness to God
* We don’t have any more details than verses 8-10 but God reminds the people why they are in the situation they are historically. The unnamed prophet carried a message that reminded them of their lineage and their history
	+ This is what the Lord God of Israel, says:
	+ I brought you out of Egypt, out of slavery
	+ I rescued you from the Egyptians and delivered you from your oppressors
	+ I drove them out of the land before you
	+ I told you who I was and what I expected – “I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

V.11-21 Gideon’s interaction with the Angel of the Lord

* While Gideon was threshing wheat in hopes of being able to get it home and hidden from the Midianites an angel visits.
* God Prepares a vessel - God often prepares people who are already busy. Moses was tending sheep, David was tending sheep, Deborah was judging disputes and was a prophetess, Simon, Andrew, James and John were fishing. God can turn your busyness into his business
* The Angels greeting encouraged Gideon (the angel foretells what will happen) – The Lord is with you mighty warrior (v.12)
* Gideon responds they way we do when we expect God to only do God for us
	+ Where is God, because if he was with us this would not have happened (v.13)
	+ Gideon sees God’s lack support (“The Lord has abandoned us”, rather than recognizing that the people have been doing evil in the eyes of the Lord (v.13)
* The angel instructs Gideon to go and save Israel from Midian (v.14)
	+ Go in the strength you have – in other words, you already have what you need
	+ You are being sent
	+ Like Moses he made excuses (v.15)
	+ The angel responds with more details – (v.16)
	+ Like Moses, Gideon wants a sign (vs.17-18) – if you are still here, I’ll present my offering, then I know you and this is really happening
	+ Gideon begins preparations for the offering, gathers all that he needs and has and brought then to the angel of God (v.19)
	+ The angel provided instructions (God is looking for availability not ability). If you can follow directions that all He needs. (v. 20)
	+ When we follow instructions, God does what he does – he touches it (v.21).
	+ When God touches something – there is a revelation of who he is (v.22)
	+ What starts with Gideons preparations ends with God’s power (through the angel) and ends with Gideon’ personal revelation of God. Your willingness + God’s direction + God’s power = greater revelation of who God is personally (sometimes corporately)
	+ The Lord gives assurance for the short situation (being in the presence of God) and for the larger task of deliverance (v.23)

Gideon builds an altar to God

* Summary of vs. 24-31 – When someone builds an altar for God, other altars must come down
* You may lose friends, you may not be as popular as you were before but know that your altar helps determine your acquaintances
* You may be given a new name (don’t worry about the name), just be who you are (Gideon became known as Jerub-Baal).