Murray Baptist Church – 10/20/20 – Bible Study Outline – Judges 6:33-7:

**Judges 6 – The Preparation of Gideon**

V33. – The oppressors gather

V.34 – The Spirit of the Lord comes on Gideon

The moment – the time when God is requiring movement (will you move or not)

* Gideon begins to act
  + He blew the trumpet which summons the local people
  + He sent messengers throughout his tribe (Manassah), calling them to arm themselves
  + He sent messengers to other close tribes (Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali)
  + Gideon can’t tell them anything other than gather because he hasn’t been told how to move yet – but he’s getting prepared – that direction is from the Holy Spirit
* Gideon goes back to the promise given by the angel of God and asks god for confirmation
  + #1 - Make the fleece wet but keep the ground dry
  + #2 – Make the fleece dry but let the ground be wet

**Judges 7 Gideon’s Promise Meets His Preparation**

It is important to remember that in Judges 6:13 Gideon commented that God had abandoned the Israelites and given them to the Midianites. Gideon was only half right. God had given the over to the Midianites because of the unfaithfulness if Israel, however God had not abandoned them. God is going to allow Gideon and the Israelites to see and experience God in a whole new way. They will come away with a communal experience with God.

Vs. 1-2 Gideon is preparing for a battle with the Midianites and their allies. At this point we don’t know how many men Gideon has willing to fight and we don’t yet know how many soldiers the Midianites have. However, God knew Gideon had too many men…

* For God to get the glory
* To keep pride down
* For the people’s faith in God to grow

They have too many men and it would result in them saying they have saved themselves

v.3 – 22,000 men dismissed because they were scared, leaving 10,000 men left

vs. 4-8, God reduces the number from 10,000 to 300 men.

* God kept those who squatted or bent and used their hands to lap
* God dismissed those who knelt down
* Gideon sent 9,700 men back home, but kept their provisions and trumpets

Reflection – where in the story did, communication stop moving from the angel of the Lord to The Lord? Instructions were initially given by the angel and Gideon was obedient. At some point Gideon is hearing and following the Lord not just his angel. That implies that there is a different level of intimacy with God.

Vs. 9-11 – The Lord instructs Gideon when to attack the camp and that God is going to give it into Gideon’s hands.

* God uses Gideon’s fear to motivate him
* Go to the camp and listen

v.12 reminds us that 300 men are up against a number of people that could not be counted.

v. 13- A dream shared – a loaf of bread – causing a tent to be toppled

v.14 – The dream interpreted – God has given the Midianites into the hands of Gideon

v.15 – After hearing the interpretation of the dream, he bows down and worships God.

v.16 – 24 The strategy activated

* v.16 – Gideon’s men were separated into three groups of 100
* They carried torches in their left hand and trumpets in their right hands
* v.17-18 – Gideon modeled leadership. Follow my lead, do what I do
  + blow your horns when we blow ours
  + shout when we shout – for the Lord and for Gideon
* v. 21 – Gideon’s men are to hold their positions
* v.22 – when the Midianites heard the trumpet blow, they turned on each other with their swords
* v.23 – Israelites from Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh were called out to pursue the Midianites
* v.24 – messengers were sent throughout the hill country of Ephraim – come down against the Midianites and keep them from getting to the water
* v. 25 – they captured two of the Midianite leaders and killed them
* Notice, there is a small army of men (300), there is a strategy (3 groups of 100 men, will blow their horns and shout), but the men have no weapons. Remember back to the angel’s words – 6:14 (“Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”