



Judges 6:1-6 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴ They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵ They 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. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

Judges 6:7-10 When the Israelites cried out to the LORD because of Midian, ⁸ **he sent them a prophet**, who said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, ‘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.”**

Proverbs 3:5-6 **Trust** in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

LESSONS ON COURAGE & CALLING

1. GOD DOESN'T CALL THE MIGHTY; HE MAKES MIGHTY THE CALLED

Judges 6:11-12 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash...where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, **mighty warrior.**”

2. GOD DOESN'T JUST WANT TO WORK FOR US; HE WANTS TO WORK THROUGH US

Judges 6:13-14 "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. **Am I not sending you?**"

3. FAITH ISN'T THE ABSENCE OF FEAR; IT'S FOLLOWING GOD IN THE MIDST OF FEAR

Judges 6:15-16 Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." ¹⁶ The LORD answered, "**I will be with you**, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

4. BEFORE YOU CAN DO BATTLE WITH THE ENEMIES AROUND YOU, YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF THE IDOLS WITHIN YOU

Judges 6:25-26 **Tear down your father's altar** to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. ²⁶ Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.