

CLIMB OUT OF THE WINEPRESS

Jdg 6:11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which *was* in Ophrah, that *pertained* unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide *it* from the Midianites.

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Jdg 6:1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

I. THEIR CONDITION

- a. They had been brought low (humbled) by their enemy:
 - (1) The hand of Midian prevailed against them.
 - (2) They lived in dens and caves and depressions in the earth to hide from the enemy.
 - (3) Gideon was threshing wheat by the winepress
 - (4) The Midianites were like Locusts (destroyed their increase, sustenance) and they were greatly impoverished.
- b. Maybe we can identify with them.
 - (1) low attendance,
 - (2) low wages,
 - (3) low morale,
 - (4) low faith,
 - (5) low offerings.

The people were just low down.

II. THEIR PROBLEM:

a. Was it the Midianites (The Devil)?

Jdg 6:6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

b. We're forgetting our text:

Jdg 6:1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

- (1) Covenant unfaithfulness.
- (2) Typical of the period of the Judges
- (3) Obey the Law and I will bless you. If not:

The Cycle of falling away from faith and suffering and deliverance to begin the cycle again.

Deu 11:26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

Deu 11:27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

Deu 11:28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

III. THEIR SOLUTION. Sometimes our disobedience brings us to the point that we have to cry out to the Lord. This is when God can begin to raise us up.

a. God resists the proud but he gives grace to the humble (1 Pet 5:5)

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

b. The Prophet:

Jdg 6:8 That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;

Jdg 6:9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land;

Jdg 6:10 And I said unto you, I *am* the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

c. Then came the Angel of the Lord:

(1) Hail thou mighty man of valor, the Lord is with thee.

(2) The Lord's got to be with us.

(3) Why then has all this happened? Has the Lord forsaken us? No, we have forsaken him.

(4) Go in this, thy might and conquer.