

PERSPECTIVE + POSITION + PROCLAMATION = CHANGE

Yesterday we had another mass shooting in El Pasco Texas where 20 were killed and 26 injured. And as if that was not enough, we woke to yet another mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio where 9 were killed and 16 injured.

Let's pray for the families of those who were taken and those who were injured. We need to also pray for those cities.

Today I want to look at Gideon in the book of Judges 6th Chapter

There's only one Gideon in the Bible. He's the fifth judge of [Israel](#), the successor of [Deborah](#). Gideon is called by God to judge Israel after Israel's been on a losing streak for seven years and [Midian](#) has them in the pocket. Gideon's first act is to tear down the local [Baal](#) and [Asherah](#) shrine. The next morning the townsfolk demand his extradition but Gideon's father Joash talks them out of it by saying that Baal should stand up for himself, if he's really a god. And he calls his son [Jerubbaal](#), meaning Let Baal Contend Against Him.

After that Gideon goes after the Midianites and the other members of the Eastern Coalition. Of the 32,000 men from Israel who show up for the battle, only 300 remain after God has Gideon weed out the chosen ones from the masses. He gives the 300 each a trumpet, a pitcher and a torch. By midnight they attack and their unusual approach causes the Midianites to stampede. As they flee, Gideon summons the entire army of Israel and they pursue them, kill their leaders and 120,000 of their swordsmen (this story obviously connects Gideon to [Abraham](#), who attacked and defeated the vast armies of Mesopotamia with 318 homegrown shepherds; Genesis 14:14).

After Gideon's victory over Midian, Israel remains undisturbed for 40 years.

But let's look at Gideon before the victories, when he is first approached by God.

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Judges 6:1-18 (NIV2011) 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.**⁷ 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.”**¹¹ The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, **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.”**¹³ **“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?”**¹⁵ **“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.”**¹⁷ Gideon replied, **“If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me.**¹⁸ **Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.” And the LORD said, “I will wait until you return.”**

I want to speak with you today about three words

Perspective

Position

Proclamation

These three words are powerful here with Gideon. We can see a great deal happening in the life of Gideon.

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Things were really bad for the Israelites, they had an enemy that invaded their land and was destroying it selling all their stuff.

- How many of us here today have an enemy that is doing the same thing in our lives. The Word of God tells us about this enemy in the book of John.

John 10:10 (NKJV) The thief does not come except **to steal**, and **to kill**, and **to destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

They cried out to God, in the mist of their devastation, their pain, their lack, their sin. **THEY CRIED OUT TO THE LORD GOD!!**

Psalm 121:1-2 (NKJV) I will lift up my eyes to the hills-- From whence comes my help?
² My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

- Today do you know who your real help is and where your help comes from?

Now how does those three words play out here?

PERSPECTIVE: Is your attitude towards your situation or circumstance. Which will create your point of view about it.

Gideon's Perspective was: Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? **My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.**”

How do you really see yourself? What are you really saying to yourself?

Gideon's one of his biggest problems was not the Midianites it was Himself and how he thought of Himself.

The other was that Gideon thought that God had abandoned them his statement was **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.**”

Have you ever been there? Where is God, and why is this happening to me?

POSITION: It was Gideon's Perspective about himself and the God he served that cause Him to be in the wrong position. You position your location will never change till you change how you see yourself and your situation. You can either position yourself to fight from a place of victory or from a place of defeat.

God wants you to remember all that He has done for you. Just as He reminded Gideon

“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.

Don't you remember how the Lord God has kept you, protected you, and loved you?

Gideon had forgotten. **Have you also forgotten?**

It's time to remember

PROCLAMATION: This is a public and official announcement, dealing with a matter of great importance. Your life is of Great importance, so what you say about yourself is important and significant to your outcome.

Gideon saw himself wrong **My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."**

How do you see yourself today? How do you see your future?

How did God see Gideon?

The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.

Am I not sending you?

I will be with you

Your PERSPECTIVE, how you see yourself and your situation will change your POSITION, it will move you to a position to fight from a place of victory, and not from a place of defeat. Your PROCLAMATION, what you are saying yourself should be what God is saying about you. You should make it a public statement say it out loud.

Psalm 139:14 (NKJV) I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Romans 8:37 (NKJV) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

1 John 4:4 (NKJV) You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.