

Devotion for April 18, 2020 by Vicar Brian

Judges 6:14-15

"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?' '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.'"

Judges is one of those books seldom visited by many. The main theme of Judges is about God's people Israel falling into idolatry. God then allows other nations to overtake them or oppress. They return to God, God then sends a Judge (warrior or champion) who leads them to battle against their enemies, and with heavenly help they restore peace and prosperity. But like clockwork, as soon as that Judge dies, Israel quickly returns to idolatry again. The process repeats many times. A true testament to God's patience and steadfast love.

In Judges 6:14-15 the Judge God is calling Gideon to be the next judge to lead the people. Gideon's response is much like yours and mine "Who me?!?!?!" "I'm not strong enough, not experienced enough, not ready, etc. etc."



I find it ever-so-intriguing that God commands Gideon specifically to go "in the strength you have". Meaning don't wait until you feel ready enough or have built up more or acquired more, or this or that, but go now, and go being confident in the one who is sending you. That is whose strength you go in. God, all-powerful and all-knowing God, wouldn't choose you, if He didn't already know exactly how it was going to play out and what you are capable of through His power.

What is God asking you to do today, that he is saying, go exactly with the strength you have right now, but take comfort knowing who is sending you (and what power HE has)?

May this living breathing Word of God bless you today as you seek to serve Him faithfully.

- Vicar Brian Bocian