

The Single-Eyed Believer (cont'd) **VOLUNTEERING AND WORKING** IN YOUR FATHER'S FIELD

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"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (Habakkuk 2:2-3 KJV)

VOLUNTEERING AND WORKING IN YOUR FATHER'S FIELD

"These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report." (Genesis 37:2 KJV)

Psalm 36:9 says, "For with thee is the fountain of life: In thy light shall we see light." In other words, every dream and vision is with and begins with God because He is the fountain of every good thing in life. If we want to amount to anything in life, therefore, we must begin our journey within the vineyard. Every biblical hero in the scriptures had their early start with God. Here is how Jesus puts it in John 15:5,

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

As Jesus said, we can do nothing without Him; everything grows and thrives within the vineyard solely because of their connectivity to the Source of all vision and dreams.

We have been focusing on the life of Joseph as a template to understand how visions and dreams can materialize. Looking through the Scripture, we found this template to be valid and worthy to be followed. Last week, we looked at how David mastered the art of war by tending his father's flock—that was his own experience of working in his father's vineyard. Fulfilling this prerequisite granted him access to ascend his earthly throne.

THE CASE STUDY OF GIDEON

Today, we are going to study another giant who realized his vision by laboring in his father's field. His name was GIDEON. For this young man, the circumstances under which he served in his father's vineyard was tough and unbearable. A brief description of his context can be found in Judges 6:2-6. It was a terrible time in the land of Israel and this should have made it impossible for Gideon to serve his father. We find some major reasons in verse 2 alone:

"And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strongholds." (Judges 6:2)

Before Gideon could even dare to dream, the hand of the Midianites prevailed against Israel. He dwelled in the midst of trouble even before his envisioning began. Worse still, there was not a stable place for Gideon to lay his head because the children of Israel lived in dens, caves and strongholds in the mountains. While Joseph lived comfortably with his family in a decent place that gave room for him to dream and David, though neglected, had a home to refresh himself in, Gideon only had caves in the mountain. It doesn't matter what your circumstances might be; I'm persuaded that it is not as bad as living in a den like a lion or in mountain caves like a hyena. My persuasion is that our future will be bright and better.

Verses 3 and 4 of Judges 6 tells us more,

"And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; and they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass."

Look at the account of the devastation the Midianites kept bringing upon the Israelites! There was simply no chance of making it. The Midianites destroyed the increase of the earth and left no means of sustenance for Israel. They left neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. The condition completely made it hard for this young man to work in his father's field, yet he stayed in that vineyard. Some of us jump out at the slightest inconvenience in life—whether at home, at church or at our place in destiny. Not Gideon! I hope that with this study, God will awaken the 'Gideons' in us so that we can realize the destiny-laden dream in our hearts.

Verses 5-6 continue,

"For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly

impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD."

Gideon witnessed first hand a great horror. It was the kind of circumstance that kills dreams and destroys the future. There were a multitude of enemies against Gideon's people—"enemies without number!" Besides, Israel was greatly impoverished at the time. In candid terms, such a context would have caused many to take to their heels, every man for himself. But where do we find the young Gideon when he was introduced in the narrative? Right on the field protecting the little they had left to survive on. Let's look at how he encountered destiny and how his vision as a leader became a reality.

GIDEON'S ENCOUNTER

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

1. Gideon had a divine visitation—he was visited by an angel. When you are on the father's field, you will always attract heaven's attention. He was not playing around but threshing the wheat by the winepress to hide it from the Midinaites.

"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour." (Judges 6:12 KJV)

2. Gideon's designation changed forever. He became 'a mighty man of valor.' The strength, strategic thinking, power, passion and purpose needed to fulfill his vision was infused into him by the virtue of that, because God calls forth the things that don't exist as though they've always existed. The timid Gideon would become a spiritual power house!

"And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." (Judges 6:13 KJV)

3. Gideon was not playing around; he was able to let the angel know that he knew this day would come. He had been studying the Torah while on the field waiting for the appointed time for his appointment with destiny. He was not standing around idly. He asked the angel about the testimonies of the deeds of God in the generations that had gone before his, thus indicating that he was conversant with his roots and made ready to engage with the vision that will be laid before him.

We will pick the study up from this point next week.

CALL TO ACTION

Are you walking in God's light?
Are you in a storm and terrified of dreaming again?
Are you engaging in the field?
Are you keeping up with the testimony of the scriptures?
Are you ready for God to dial your number?
Are you the man God is looking for?

PONDER ON THIS: "HE DESTROYS THE WISDOM OF THE WISE"
"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." (1 Corinthians 1:19 KJV)

God's way of operating may not make sense to those without His Spirit, but His way is always far better than our way. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Father, let me experience such a divine visitation that will transform my life for good in the name of Jesus.
- 2. Lord, give me the grace to be more diligent that I may stand before kings and not before mean men in the name of Jesus.

PS: Reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom in your area. God bless you as you do so.