

Choices: Gideon

His choice

Gideon is a strange story. Again, God chooses to use people that are the least favorable in the land. This boy is not the one that anyone would command to run an army. God approaches him through an angel of the Lord. Immediately Gideon is questioning the validity of this visit. He says “Is this from God and am I really the right guy.” There is a story of a man named Zachariah in the Gospel of Luke. He questions the angel and loses his ability to speak. In this story Gideon is allowed to question God.

The choices of Gideon are as interesting as the choice of Gideon. In a way God chose Gideon and Gideon chose God. At that time, this man lived in a place of idols and Baal worship. Gideon was actually called Jerubbaal which means “Let Baal contend against him.” They were going to kill him for ruining their worship area. Gideon chose to listen to God and go against the people he lived with. This choice by Gideon is very similar to Abraham's choice in a land of idols.

Gideon is not who we would have chosen to lead us. He knows that and several times asks God to prove he was the right choice as leader. I think Gideon never thought he couldn't lead, but rather, thought he shouldn't lead. It is amazing that Gideon made the choice to listen and follow God. He must have thought “I am not the one”; “How can I win with just 300 men”; and “how do I lead once this is done.” Gideon is full of questions, yet God continually gave him answers.

In a way, Gideon is presented with choices that come across as challenges. He has to challenge his belief because Baal was number one in that land. He had to challenge his view on leadership because God said he was the one to lead them. Gideon also had to challenge the

known ways of war. They won this battle totally the wrong way. Usually you used big armies, and the support of the surrounding towns. Gideon had none of these options to win a war. What he did have was this Angel of the Lord who kept pestering him to fight Gods way. I suppose Gideon was threshing wheat and dreamed of a better life beyond oppression in his land. God answered that prayer with a call to follow him. Those were pretty big choices for a young man who was least in his family. What is your choice?

Our choice

Have you ever sat in a place and hid from the spotlight? I have, but I'm sure some have not. Maybe you are confident and knew you were meant to lead. I know people that take jobs but really want to be the boss. I have read job postings that say advancement is possible in this Job. That advancement speaks of power, money, and status. How often do people take jobs with the intention of gaining those things over doing a good job. Others like Gideon, hide in the corner and work. They hope no one will notice them.

What if we were meant to lead, but were unsure if that is true? Maybe you have talent and you know it. Maybe you can sing but nobody ever gave you a chance. Are you smart and can run a church, but you're not a business man? Maybe the best looking is not what God looks for? That is what men in authority look for more often than not. What does God see, and further to that, what does he see in you?

I was meant to lead. I have tried and tried over the years to find a mentor to help me grow as a leader. Several men in power have recognized my leadership. They have also recognized that I am a threat to their power. People love to listen to me lead. Do I think I am the best leader? Well yes and no. I can lead well. I can also be a great asset to other leaders. God has asked me to

lead alone. To build a website ministry in social media. I got to tell you, social media and Christianity are not great bed fellows. What the world thinks and what God thinks are as different as a platypus and a parakeet.

Our choice (as mine) might be to live in a world that makes you a fish out of water. The best things we have in this world came from out of the box thinkers. “Out of the box” and “Fish out of water” they sure seem the same to me. I have been called crazy and a rebel. Isn’t that what Jesus was called. I’m not Jesus but I am listening to God just like Jesus, Gideon, and Abraham did. I am not as good as those Bible icons but they didn’t think they were great either. God used his son to deliver a message instead of himself. God chose Gideon instead of someone more popular. Do you know the choices before you? What is before you today?

Lesson learned

The lessons learned by Gideon are several. The first one is that listening over doing is important. It’s easy to push people to let you lead because we all want to be recognized. Being loved, idolized, and called on gives us warm fuzziness inside. God asked Gideon to be patient. Several times God asked Gideon to lead but to wait for God’s timing. What looks like the right move just might be the wrong time to do it. I bought a new car because my Jeep began to have issues. I wanted to wait a few months more but God said go buy now. It’s never been about my time with God.

Secondly, Gideon could see the writing on the wall. His people were being oppressed by another people. It could have been ok to just be swallowed up by another land. To live life their way and follow their customs. It’s safer, nicer, and easier. What if the life we have is sacred, good, and important? Maybe the for fathers of the past handed down a good way to live. Do we

have a responsibility to fight for the traditions just as much as for the future? Gideon could have just let it all go, but he chose to fight for what he believed in. In North America we are being swallowed whole by the rest of the world. We are leaders of freedom to them, but we are being killed by the customs they bring to us. We are just like Gideon. Yes, Gideon killed the enemy. It's not about crushing the bad guy half as much as fighting for your country and traditions.

The choices before us are the same as Gideon. Our land has idols, other religions, and a society willing to be consumed by another. Is that the choice we have? Do we let it all go or do we fight for our country? In America politics that is being played out right now. It's the possum and the fox. Both have good and bad qualities. One will fight for America while the other will lay down and compromise. What the Gideon story says to me is that choices are there because compromise is never an option. One way is always stronger than another. The choice is what is the best option: God only knows. What are your choices today?