

SERMON NOTES

July 12, 2020

People in Crisis: A Biblical Perspective

Judges 6:1-16 (ESV) – Pastor Todd Manuel

1 The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. *2* And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. *3* For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. *4* They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. *5* For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. *6* And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD. *7* When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, *8* the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery. *9* And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. *10* And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.” *11* Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. *12* And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” *13* And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all

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*this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” *14* And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” *15* And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” *16* And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”*

Portrait of A Thief

The enemy is a thief

- The big picture
 - The time
 - Mission
 - The end of the age

Matthew 13:39,40, 49

Matthew 24:4-14 *4* And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. *5* For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. *6* And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. *7* For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. *8* All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. *9* “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. *10* And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. *11* And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. *12* And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. *13* But the one

who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- A personal picture

John 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...

Unfaithfulness is a thief

God cannot and, will not, bless unfaithfulness.

We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful.

Mother Teresa

Fear is a thief

Portrait of Truth

What truth says

What truth sees

God made you as you are in order to use you as he planned.

J. C. Macauley

What Truth has

When one door closes, another opens.

Alexander Graham Bell

Psalms 114:7-8 (ESV) ⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, ⁸ who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

God and the odds

- The setting

Judges 7:2-6 (ESV) ² The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' ³ ... 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home...' " Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained. ⁴ Take them down to the water... ⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself... ⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men..."

- The odds

Judges 7:7,12 (ESV) ⁷ And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." ... ¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance.

God often works contrary to human reason.

The promise of the presence of God beats the odds every time.

- The outcome

Judges 7:22 (ESV) ²² When they blew the 300 trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his comrade and against all the army. And the army fled...

No problem is so big that it won't fit in God's hands.

Suzanne Berry