

Sermon Devotional

Judges 6:11-24

11Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. 12The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior." 13Gideon answered him, "But sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has cast us off, and given us into the hand of Midian." 14Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you." 15He responded, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." 16The Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites, every one of them." 17Then he said to him, "If now I have found favor with you, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. 18Do not depart from here until I come to you, and bring out my present, and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay until you return." 19So Gideon went into his house and prepared a kid, and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour; the meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the oak and presented them. 20The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. 21Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes; and the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight. 22Then Gideon perceived that it was the angel of the Lord; and Gideon said, "Help me, Lord God! For I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." 23But the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you; do not fear, you shall not die." 24Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it, The Lord is peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

[Second Reading – Judges 7:7-18 \(read online\)](#)



Learn

- At this time, several nations (led by Midian) were attempting to starve out the Israelites. They continually raided the food stores for seven years, leaving the land in a severe famine.
- The “angel of the Lord” is very explicitly referenced in several Old Testament passages, and the references are usually quite explicit that the “angel of the Lord” is not like other angels. In fact, it can be hard to separate what is said about the “angel of the Lord” and what is said about God. For these and other reasons, many scholars believe the “angel of the Lord” is actually Jesus appearing long before his earthly birth.
- Grain is usually processed in an open area with a strong wind to more easily blow away the unused chaff. Gideon is threshing the grain in a winepress that is dug into the ground so that he will not be seen. This makes the threshing process far more difficult, though.



Reflect

- Why do you think the angel of the Lord keeps calling Gideon “mighty” even though he is clearly reluctant and afraid?
- Why do you think the angel of the Lord turned Gideon’s offering of a meal into a burnt sacrifice offering?



Pray

Holy God, I ask for your incredible patience with me as I struggle to follow you through my fears and doubts.



Live

- God was kind enough to grant Gideon a few assurances about the coming battles. How might God be attempting to comfort or assure you (or use you to assure someone else) right now?
- Where have you been too afraid to do something that God wants you to do? How might you find a way to do it even though you’re afraid?