



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Faithfulness: Warriors are Formed in the Winepress

Guest Speaker: Valerie Althouse

Scripture: Judges 6:11-16, 22

The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

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?"

"But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

Judges 6:11-16, 22

Sermon Outline:

- I. There's something about being pressed that opens you up to profound change.
- II. God forms his warriors in the winepress.
- III. Wine has to go through a process to become mature.
- IV. Gideon's name means "mighty warrior" but we find him farming.
- V. When God calls Gideon he identifies with his family origin, of being weak and the least in his clan instead of recognizing what God has called him for.
- VI. When we are in the winepress we often don't recognize His presence.
- VII. Discouragement can rob us of our calling.
- VIII. God will use the most unlikely people for his purpose.
- IX. God called truth into Gideon's life even though he couldn't see it.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Guest Speaker Valerie Althouse offers the third sermon in our Fruit of the Spirit series, focused on faithfulness.

Sermon Questions:

- I. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?
 - In your family of origin, what were you told as a child of who you were? Smart, strong, or not good enough, weak, etc...? What was your worth or identity based on...grades? Hard work? Obedience?
 - How does God see Gideon in this passage?
 - How does God see you in Christ?
 - How are you being held back from the true identity that God has called for you? What role does your upbringing play in holding you back from how God has called you or what today discourages you?
 - What area in your life do you need to trust and have more faith in God to allow you to become "matured" in your true identity?