

Good with Ms

PART 3 Sunday December 27, 2020



PROGRESS CHURCH

Theme: God With Us

Scripture: Matthew 1: 23

Sunday December 27, 2020
Apostle Dr. Lovelace St. John



Theme Scriptures:

❖ **Mathew 1: 23**

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

❖ **Judges 6: 1- 19**

Introduction

- As we come to the end of this series “*God With Us*” I trust that it has encouraged and strengthen you
- God with us! This truth is immovable
- It is who God is and how God feels about you
- Other people may forget you, ignore you, even work against you; but God is with you!
- If God has a calendar, your birthday is circled. If there is a tree in Heaven, He's carved your name in the bark
- God is with you. In **Isaiah 49:16**, God says, “*See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me.*”
- I pray that this series has gone deep and lifted you up
- God is good and He is ready to help you right now



Introduction

- God with us: in the good and the bad; when I'm doing great and when I fail; in disappointments and discouragements; extraordinary trouble and pain...
- God is all-powerful, always loving and ready to help me - right now!
- God is with me with His goodness
- God is with me with His strength
- God is with me, answering my prayers
- God is with me, never giving up on me



God is:

❖ Just

❖ Loving

❖ Omniscient

❖ Eternal

❖ Forgiving

❖ Wise

❖ Merciful

❖ Holy

❖ Truthful

❖ Sovereign

❖ Unchangeable

❖ Omnipresent

Introduction

- Our God is knowable, approachable, able and ready to help:
 - ❖ **Knowable:** God created the universe in all its magnitude and creative details, yet He is able to be known by us. He tells us about Himself, welcomes us into relationship
 - ❖ **Approachable:** God invites us to engage Him with all of our life. We don't have to get our act together first. Be bold, be honest
 - ❖ **Able:** God is able. He is 100 percent right every time about everything. He has unlimited wisdom, understands all situations both past and present. We don't need to counsel Him or persuade Him. He is able
 - ❖ **Ready to help:** God is standing with His arms open, disposed to answer your needs

Psalm 34:8; “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”



I. **God Is With Us To Do Amazing Things**

- God is for the unlikely heroes, failing people, flawed and weak people

We Are Unlikely Heroes - Judges 6:1-10:

- The Book of Judges is the story of fourteen amazing, ordinary people in need of a miracle - unlikely heroes who God raised up against the odds
- Gideon: "One who cuts down;" from zero to hero; from weakness to strength; from hiding to leadership; from fear to faith; from failure to success



II. God Is With Us When Our Circumstances May Look Dire

A. It was an "end of my rope" time:

- Judges 6:6; “...*greatly impoverished*”
- **Impoverished:** at the end, totally depleted, nothing left, empty
- **End of rope:** to be out of options or alternative courses of action; to be stuck in a bad situation; to be at the limit of one's patience; frustrated, annoyed, can't take it anymore

B. It was a time of "lack"

- **Judges 6:2- 4:** dens, caves, strongholds... Midianites destroyed their produce, left nothing behind; no sheep, oxen or donkey, all destroyed
- Totally desolate, deficient of all resources, barely enough to scrape by; like a ghost town after a severe drought or natural disaster

C. It was a time of "severe attack" by the enemy

- **Judges 6:5:** enemy is numerous, camels without number, destroying all, overwhelming
- Overrun, swamped, smothered, everywhere you look the enemy is there; the enemy is uncompromisingly harsh, relentless, unrelenting in determination to conquer and assert authority

D. It was a time of "little faith, little vision"

- **Judges 6:11:** Gideon threshed wheat on a winepress in order to hide it
- He felt powerless, fear, no hope, forlorn, fatalistic, no way for God to do anything

III. God Is With Us When We Are Not Who We Think We Are

- **Judges 6:12;** *“And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”*

The Lord invades our present circumstance:

- Jesus always arrives at the opportune time, when the battle is hottest and tormentors are pressing around you.
- He surprises you, bringing deliverance by speaking the Word directly into your soul and lifting the spirit of heaviness that is pushing down on you.
- **Judges 6:12;** *“... the Lord is with you”*
- Literally - ***His power is on you***
- **Gideon could not feel it, see it, confess it or imagine it.**
- **Acts 4:13;** *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”*

The Lord's perception is different from ours:

- **Judges 6:12**; “... *you mighty man of valor*”
- Gideon is hiding, full of fear, doubts, anger, and questions, but God sees him differently
- God sees you as what you can be, will be - not what or who you are now. We see failures, mistakes, problems, losing; but God sees differently
- Gideon would become a fulfillment of his name, "one who cuts down." Gideon would charge into the face of the enemy and cut the enemy down.
- We must see ourselves the way God sees us. What name do you call yourself? What name is God calling you? Abram - **Abraham**; Jacob - **Israel**
- **Jabez**: “*And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested (I Chronicles 4:10).*”

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- **Judges 6:13;** *“Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”*

Gideon questions why God is not working for him:

- **Judges 6:13;** *“... O my lord, if the Lord is with us..?”*
 - Why then has all this happened?
 - Where is God in all this?
 - Why all the bad circumstances?
 - Where is the victory?

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- Behind every bad thing that happens around us, God is at work, turning it around to work for us. Suffering turns us toward God and removes things we are hindered by.
 - Undetected - sacredness of circumstances! Nothing is by chance. God by His providence aligned Gideon with this circumstance so that Gideon could align with divine power, faith and miracles that God would do through him.

Gideon questions where are the miracles of the past:

- **Judges 6:13;** "...and where are all the miracles?"
- Where is the God of past power? It's been 250 years since Egypt. Now where is God?

Gideon questions how he can be used since he's not qualified:

- **Judges 6:14;** *"Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"*
- **Judges 6:15;** *"So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."*

IV. God Is With You In Spite Of Your Weaknesses

- **Judges 6:16**; *“And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you...”*
- ❖ **Joseph** - sold into slavery, was falsely accused but became second most powerful ruler
- ❖ **Samson** - messed up, gave up strength, killed thousands of Philistines at end of his life
- ❖ **Jonah** - Disobeyed God yet turned around and brought a life-saving message to Nineveh
- ❖ **Esther** - Unlikely hero; Jewish girl in foreign land whose courageous actions saved Jews
- ❖ **John Mark and Onesimus** - ran away, were considered useless but became useful

V. God Is With You To Restore Your Faith In Him

- **Judges 6: 22-23;** *“Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face.” Then the LORD said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.”*
- **Lamentations 3:22-23;** *“Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”*
- **Don't panic. You will finish all God has given you to do.**
- **Deuteronomy 7:9;** *“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments...”*
- **1 John 2:14;** *“I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”*



Remember ...

- God is with you, for you and is turning things around in you and around you
 - You must make a choice to take a chance to change the impossible things
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