

**August 10, 2008**

**“Growing Faith by Giving Up Idols”**

**Growing Faith and Giving Glory: The Gospel According to Gideon, Series #3**

**Pastor Enoch Liao**

**Judges 6: 25-40**

<sup>25</sup> That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. <sup>26</sup> Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering."

<sup>27</sup> So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

<sup>28</sup> In the morning when the men of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar!

<sup>29</sup> They asked each other, "Who did this?"

When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

<sup>30</sup> The men of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

<sup>31</sup> But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar." <sup>32</sup> So that day they called Gideon "Jerub-Baal," saying, "Let Baal contend with him," because he broke down Baal's altar.

<sup>33</sup> Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel. <sup>34</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. <sup>35</sup> He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.

<sup>36</sup> Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised- <sup>37</sup> look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." <sup>38</sup> And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

<sup>39</sup> Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew." <sup>40</sup> That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

*NIV*

Next Week's Sermon:

"God's Way to Grow Faith and Get Glory"

Growing Faith and Giving Glory: The Gospel According to Gideon series #4

Judges 7:1-23

Pastor Enoch Liao