**Sermon Title: “When God Makes a Man”**

**Scripture: Judges 6:11-27**

**Date: June 20, 2021**

**Passage Background and Summary**

The passage begins with an angel of the Lord coming to the people of Israel who are being oppressed by the Midianites due to their disobedience. The angel of the Lord comes to Gideon who has been threshing wheat in a wine press, hiding from the Midianites. The angel says, “The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior.” Gideon questions the presence of the Lord given their current oppressed situation/circumstance, but God has chosen Gideon to deliver the people. Gideon feels ill-equipped and protests saying he is “least in his family” and “of the weakest clan.” Yet, he tells God if it is true that he is the chosen one then he would like a sign. The angel of the Lord shows him a sign by bringing fire out of the rock, and Gideon knows that it is God who has called him. His first task as judge is to pull down his father’s altar to Baal and destroy it.

**Sermon Summary**

In times like these the community needs men. When men are absent or missing in action, the entire community is out of balance. Strong men, real men are intentionally made. God said, “Let us make man.” A real man takes purpose, providence, intentionality, discipline, hard work and a whole lotta love and a whole lotta patience. God is in the midst of shaping you and building you into the man or woman or person that God intends for you to be. In the Bible, it is Gideon who is willing to stand up. With just 300 men Gideon empowered by Yahweh won the victory on behalf of the children of Israel. This is him at the height of his story, but he did not start out that way. We like to see the product without recognizing the process. We are in the hands of God, and God has not given up on us.

**When God makes a man, God deals with:**

1. **The Pain of his Past:** When God shows up, the Midianites are in hiding. They are in trouble with their enemies because they are in trouble with God. When the angel shows up, nevertheless, the angel says, “The Lord is with you.” You may have messed up, but the Lord is with you. God has been with you even when you weren’t with God. Whether you had a complex relationship with your father, lost your father, or do not have a relationship with your father at all, the Lord is with you. And Gideon says, “If the Lord is with us, why has all of this happened to us?” If the Lord is with us, why are we still fighting for our civil rights and voting rights? If the Lord is with us, why is there so much pain and violence in the land? Gideon is in a frustrated place, and you may be living your life in a frustrated place. In this place, Gideon had to make wheat in the cramped winepress. Have you ever had to work something out in a cramped space? Maybe you didn’t have the resources or support you needed, but God made a way, even in the cramped space.
2. **The Contradictions in His Character:** The Lord is with you even among your flaws and the wrong you’ve done. Although you may not deserve it, God has called you a mighty warrior. Gideon is just trying to make it through the week, but God chooses him and uses him. God doesn’t use us on the basis of our abilities but on availability.
3. **The Failure in His Family:** The first assignment Gideon gets as a new judge is to use a bull to pull down an altar that belonged to his father. It was an altar to Baal, a false god. He had to address the stuff in his own family tree, and we have to do the same. We have to deal with the stuff in our family tree personally and as a country/nation. With the nation, it’s dealing with our history of racism. In your family, you need to deal with the bull. You have to pull it down and burn it. God didn’t give up on us. God decided to become like us so that we could become like God. God knows how to raise a man.

**Reflection Questions**

1. What are some of the situations that have shaped you into the person of God you are today? What was the process?
2. Share a time/situation when you felt distant from God, like God wasn’t with you or you weren’t with God.
3. When has God made a way for you in a cramped space when you were lacking the support and/or resources to meet a goal?
4. Have you made yourself available to be used by God? Has God ever used you to impact someone else’s life in some way?
5. Are there any failures in your family that need to be addressed?
6. What are some of the things in this country/nation’s family tree that need to be addressed?