

## Your Comeback

At some point in every person's life, we all will face defeat.

- Sometimes we bounce right back, pick ourselves up, and get on with life.
- But sometimes the defeat knocks us down and out.
- We find ourselves at a loss after a crushing blow, and we have to start making choices.
- Will I get back up? Do I remember how?
- Can I do this again? Can I try anymore?

Can I disappear and lick my wounds for a while?

- How long is long enough to heal?
- Will I ever feel like myself again?
- Will I make a comeback?

Have you ever needed a come back?

- You've messed up or life has messed you up and you need a win.
- Fortunately, we serve a God who specializes in comebacks.
- He makes it clear in Romans 8 that nobody falls outside of his love.

### Romans 8:35-39

#### Judges 6:1-7

- Reasons for setbacks
  - **Mother Nature:** **Romans 8:19-22 NLT** - For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.
  - **Other People**
  - **Spiritual Opposition**
  - **Your Own Bad Decisions**
- Comeback = return to a place of stature, significance and well-being

#### Judges 6:11-16

- Anyone can report **what it is!** It takes faith to hear what God says and see what God sees. "We walk by faith, not by sight."
- God sees the circumstances differently than what we see.
- God see you differently than perhaps you see yourself.
  - Gideon saw himself a small, defeated, hopeless loser
  - God saw him as a "mighty man of valor."
- Every great faith story begins with the Word of the Lord.
- Your comeback story begins with the Word of the Lord.
- Gideon blamed God for his circumstances! It's difficult to have faith in God to deliver you from circumstances that you believe that God Himself caused!
- God has a greater purpose for your life.

Dallas Willard in *The Divine Conspiracy*, "We are designed to be creators, initiators, not just receivers. Yet the whole model, the consumerist model of the human being, is designed to make us passive, and to make us complainers and whiners.... We see this in our churches, which pander to consumers.

Modern advertising promises an ideal life of wealth, ease, happiness and entertainment. In contrast, the heroic life is one of honor, duty, sacrifice and joyful

service to others. Our culture has shifted from self-sacrifice to self-indulgence. The dissatisfaction stemming from self-indulgence crushes our spiritual life and vitality.

### Summarize Judges 6:28-35

- Gideon destroyed the Altar of Baal (god of fertility, weather, and war)
- V. 34 the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon people exclusively on His discretion. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is poured out on every yielded person. It is now more our responsibility to ask and to yield ourselves to the fullness of the Holy Spirit. "FILL US NOW!"

### Judges 6:36-40

- Mark Batterson in *Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God* wrote, "God speaks in different languages...seven love languages. We'll start with Scripture, the first and final Word. Then we'll explore six secondary languages: desires, doors, dreams, people, promptings, and pain."
- One or more of these seven languages will confirm what you believe God is speaking to you. Doors will open. Other people will speak to you what God said. You will be pulled on by a deep inner desire or prompting. And yes, even pain will cause you to respond obediently to the Word of the Lord.
- I am not much of a "fleece" guy. Batterson wrote, "God speaks to different personalities in different ways. The way Jesus related to His disciples was as different as Peter, James, and John. God is big enough to speak as many languages as there are people."
- The major leadings of the Holy Spirit have always been confirmed in my life by Michelle, and secondarily by our advisors and friends in ministry.

### Summarize Judges 7

- Began with 32,000 men
- 22,000 who were afraid were sent home
- 10,000 was whittled down to 300
- The Lord was going to receive the entire glory for this victory!
- **Read Judges 7:16-21**
- The enemy army destroyed each other. The Israelite army won a great victory and chased the Midianites out of country.
- Gideon and Israel experienced a great comeback!
- It's time for YOUR COMEBACK!

### Call to action

- God usually works with us and through us, not just for us.
- Your comeback story begins with the Word of the Lord.
- Take the first step
- Get busy: **Proverbs 12:11 NKJV** - He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, But he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.
- "Setbacks can be frustrating, frightening, and debilitating; but never forget that you have a Refuge!" Tim Storey, *Comeback & Beyond: How to Turn Your Setbacks Into Comebacks*, "You have an Advocate, a Comforter, a Mentor, a Guide, a Teacher and Trainer who knows your life better than you do, better than your parents or friends or any other human being. He feels your pain when you are hurt and dances with joy when you achieve success. He's with you every step of the way, giving you the strength and wisdom you need to take that next step of faith."