

Faith Under Fire – “Inventory Reduction”

Video – Hostage

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Intro:

ILL: How many remember when your parent/parents told you to do something and if you questioned them you would hear.

“I don’t care what you think and don’t ask me questions just do what I told you to do.”

A. We learned early on life don’t ask questions, JUST DO WHAT YOUR TOLD TO DO.

1. If we learned that early in life then why do we ask questions when God tells us what to do. The Bible is full of Great promises and blessings for His people all we need is FAITH.
2. PEOPLE DON’T RECEIVE - BECAUSE THEY DON’T HAVE FAITH TO BELIEVE. SO WHO’S HOLDING YOUR FAITH HOSTAGE (CAPTIVE) SATAN? NO – YOU.

LEARN TO SEE WHAT GOD SEES IN YOU

Judges 6:11-12 (MSG)

A. Understand that Gideon wasn’t a Warrior but he was a man with weak, wavering faith who had to be strengthened by God.

1. GOD SAW IN GIDEON NOT WHAT HE WAS, BUT WHAT HE WAS GOING TO BECOME. When the Lord looks at us he’s see a warrior that can do anything.
2. **But why don’t we** – BECAUSE along the journey you’ve been BEAT UP, KNOCKED DOWN. That all you want to do is COMPLAIN. SO DID GIDEON

STOP YOUR COMPLAINING

Judges 6:13 (MSG)

A. Gideon didn’t act surprised or shock to see the angel of the Lord.

1. His first response was a COMPLAINT – He started questioning God.
2. Have you ever been like that – You just can’t see the good in all the bad?
3. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon in bad times - that was a GOOD THING. But all he focused on was all the trouble, heartache.
4. **“YOUR NOT THE GOD I THOUGHT YOU WE’RE YOU DON’T CARE ABOUT US”**

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B. People complain so much that they talk themselves into the idea that God doesn't care.

1. Their complaining keeps their faith in **BONDAGE**.

STOP YOUR EXCUSES

Judges 6:14-15 (MSG)

NOBODY EVER WANTS THE RUNT OF THE LITTER

A. It was excuse after excuse. Telling God about all his inadequacies.

1. At this point God was speaking to him, **“God faced him directly”**
2. Don't you think if God didn't think Gideon could do it He wouldn't have asked him?

B. We come up with the lamest excuses in putting our faith in action.

1. Most the time we don't want to because the Job that we've been asked to do:
-Is too much work. –We don't want to take the time –Or we don't feel adequate.
2. And the whole time we're keeping our FAITH HOSTAGE

I FIGURED THE BEST WAY TO LET YOU KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY IS TO LET GIDEON HIMSELF TELL YOU.

Video – Gideon

CONCLUSION:

Inventory Reduction

GOD WANTS US TO REDUCE OUR WAYS AND HAVE FAITH IN HIS WAYS

GIDEON WON A GREAT VICTORY FOR GOD BECAUSE HE PUT HIS FAITH IN ACTION THE LORD'S WAY AND STOPPED HOLDING IT HOSTAGE HIS WAY