

**The Many  
MASKS  
of Gideon**





# God called Gideon to go and save Israel

The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

Judges 6:14




# Endless Loop

- Israel forsaking God
- God allowing people to persecute Israel
- The people of Israel cry out to God
- God then voluntold somebody to take care of the problem
- Eventually the judge yields and takes on the task
- Israel is Saved






# We Want a King



**So, all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”**



**1 Samuel 8:4-5**





# We Want a King



**Saul was the first King of Israel, but did you know their first choice was Gideon?**

*The Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us you, your son and your grandson because you have saved us from the hand of Midian.”*

**Judges 8:22**





# Vanquishing the Midianites

## The Priority Mission (Judges 6:25-32)

# The Timing

**God wasted no time**

**This is coming right after Gideon's worship session with God**

**Before the army**


**Before the battle**

**This mission was to be Gideon's starting point**






# The Assignment



**“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. 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.”**



**v. 25-26**





# Why Start Here?

Remember the Israelites, Gideon and us, see the issue as the Midianites

God sees the issue as the relationship

The Israelites were mudding the relationship

They were worshiping false Gods (*Exodus 20:1-3*)

They had made idols for worship (*Exodus 20:4-6*)





# Do You See It?



We want God to fix our problem,  
God wants us to mend the  
**RELATIONSHIP**

**HOW?**

**Get Right with God**



# Getting Right with God!

**Prepare to Sacrifice**

**Teardown**

**Build Anew**

**Sacrifice**





# The Action

## Coward or Shrewd?


So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

v. 28






# The Outcry



In the morning when the people 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! They asked each other, "Who did this?"



v. 28-29





# The Outcry



When they carefully investigated, they were told, “Gideon son of Joash did it.” The people 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.”**

v. 29-30










# Weird Response?

**These are the chosen people of God**

**What was destroyed was some stacked  
rocks and a wooden pole**

**What was sacrificed was done  
so at God's instruction**

**Why would they respond  
in such a way?**





# **The Mask of False Faith**



**They loved their religion more than  
they valued their relationship**

**The religion is comfortable and convenient**

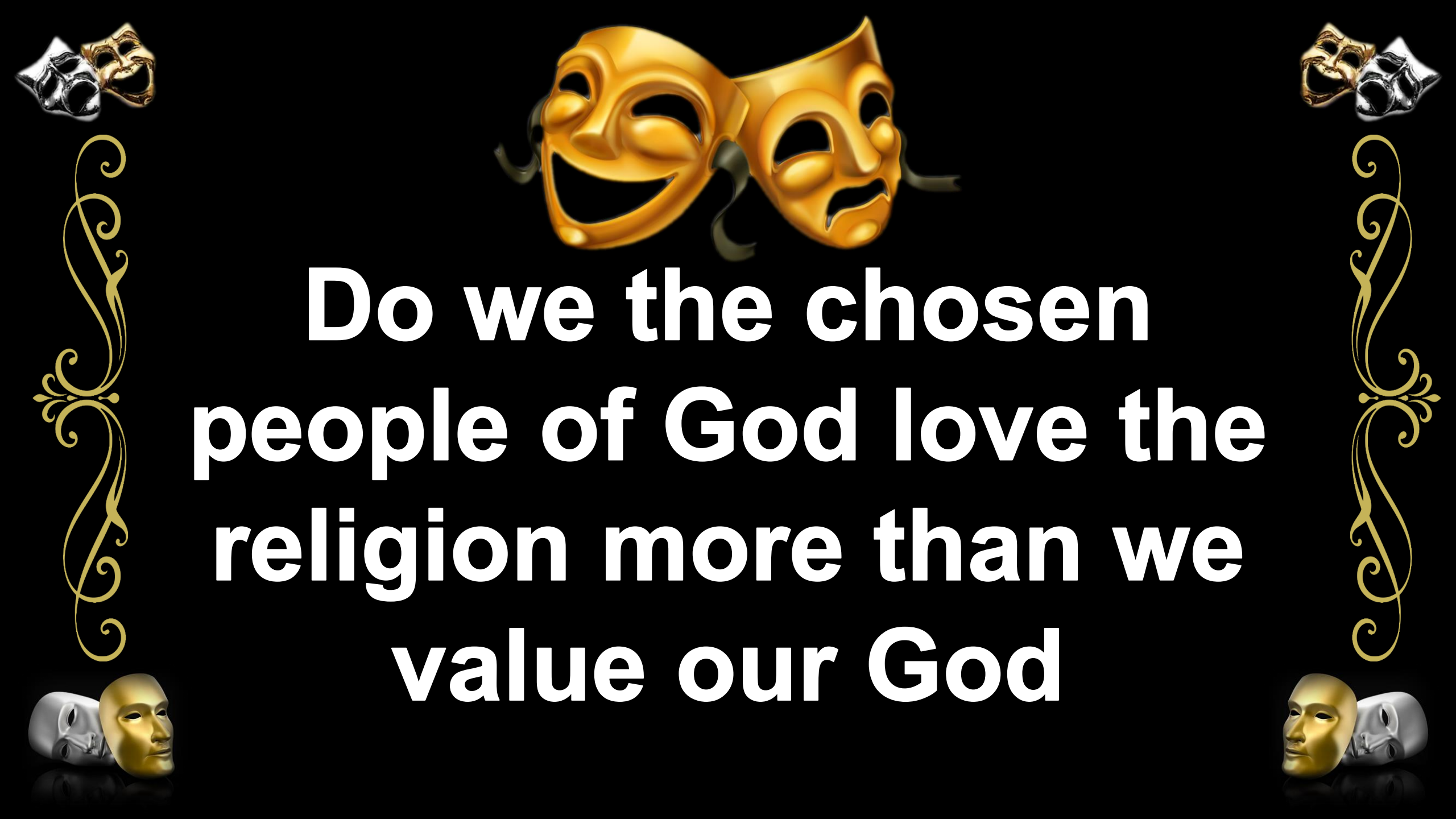
**The relationship was going to be messy and  
difficult**

**In the religion they could live how they wanted**

**In the relationship they had boundaries**





A decorative border surrounds the text. At the top center are two golden comedy and tragedy masks. In the top corners are pairs of smaller golden and silver masks. On the left and right sides are vertical golden flourishes. At the bottom corners are pairs of golden and silver masks.

**Do we the chosen  
people of God love the  
religion more than we  
value our God**


# The Result

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.” So, because Gideon broke down Baal’s altar, they gave him the name Jerub-Baal that day, saying, “Let Baal contend with him.”

v. 31-32

**It Starts Here!**



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a white, featureless mask. The mask is held in front of the person's face, and the hands are positioned as if they are about to remove it. The background is dark, making the white mask stand out.

# Reaching the World

Begins with taking  
off the **MASK** and  
Righting the house