

**The Many
MASKS
of Gideon**



Sleepless






**God the world is
an awfully big place**

**God on a good Sunday we are lucky if we
have 40 people**


**God when we have something for outreach,
we are lucky if we have 10 or 12**

**God are you sure you wanted me to
send those 31,700 people home?**





Fear is a Two-way Street



**The Midianites are just as afraid of
upcoming battle**

**They are not afraid of Gideon, they are
afraid of Gideon's God**

**As Christians we live in a lot of fear of
the world**



**We never stop to consider the world is
afraid also**





Today's Lesson



God's way looks different from our way
Size Does NOT Matter!

Many times we use small as a crutch or an excuse (Judges 6:15)

Often small means we go into survival mode and just do enough to get by (Judges 6:11)

God did not need a huge army but he did need willing people that were committed to doing it HIS way






Our Focus


**God's way looks different
from our way**

**We want to take off the mask
of confidence in SIZE
and see the face of
willing workers for God**






The God Sized Ministry



Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So, twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.



Judges 7:1-3





A Shout Out to Gideon!

He was a Master Motivator

He Got with the Plan

**In between the fleece and the ephod
Gideon paints a picture-perfect image
of what it means to follow God**

**And while preparing for this battle
he took a God's way or the highway
approach**





It's Too Big!

The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’”

How big is too big?

Anytime a ministry becomes self-sustaining it's too big



When every decision comes down to nickels and noses it's too big





It's Too Big!



It did not say Gideon could not win with 32,000 soldiers it said God could not deliver with 32,000

When we are self-sustaining God never gets the glory

When everything makes sense then we take the credit





What God Seeks

Not Afraid at the Task at Hand

He did not say they had to be fearless

“Trembling with Fear”

If your fear is your focus go home

If you don't think it's possible, thanks for playing

If you are full of fear, you're going to say NO!





GO HOME!

69% of the army left





God's Way or the Highway



What if we did this in our Ministry?

We know we have a mission to reach the world

The mission is go everywhere so going anywhere is in scope

Our Purpose is to give glory to God by meeting people where they are, sharing Jesus with them in a meaningful way, and encouraging them to live in a growing relationship with Him.





God's Way or the Highway



Our Purpose is to give glory to God by meeting people where they are, sharing Jesus with them in a meaningful way, and encouraging them to live in a growing relationship with Him.

How many people would we have left?

Would you still be here?





It's Still Too Big!
Judges 7:4-8

**It's Not About
Revenge**





Put them too the test



The test is simple, take them to the water and see how they drink

Camp 1: The first camp was those that got on their hands and knees to drink like a dog (97%)

Camp 2: Were those that cupped the water and brought it to their mouth (3%)

WHY?





Focused on Themselves

**When your priority is only
you and your needs God
said send them home**





God's Way or the Highway



Could we be this bold?

Make God's plan the true priority

How many would be left?

Would you still be here?



Get Up!

When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship. He returned to Israel's camp and said, "Get up, for the Lord has handed the Midianite camp over to you."

Judges 7:14

How many people will be there?

Will You Be There?

