

appnotes

DAY READ JUDGES 6:1-40

1

Most of us were not picked first in gym class. Through the course of our lives, we can get it in our heads that no one wants us for anything special. So we focus on living our little lives and surviving. That is where we see Gideon in today's reading. But then God came and told this hiding farmer that he was to be a winning fighter. And Gideon just wasn't sure. Can you blame him? Is your response any different? God created you with a critical role in mind that would affect the lives of others (Eph. 4:11-16). Yes, you. And what is your response? Are you charging in or are you timid? You know what is amazing? God will work with our insecurities, but He wants us to act. Will you take your next step toward whatever God is calling you to do?

DAY READ ROMANS 12:1-2

2

What's the most interesting thing you've caught when fishing? A boot? Another fisherman? The natural thing to do when you see something unexpected floating by is to look upriver. Why? Because we all know that things flow downstream. Today's passage makes the same point. Our actions flow out of our beliefs. You say what you think, but you live what you believe. When you are surprised by an unexpected outburst, sudden jealousy, or judgmental thought—look upstream to your heart. Ask yourself what belief is driving that behavior. Were you expecting everything to work out easily? Are you discontented? Do you expect others to be perfect even though you know you are not? Spend the day asking this question of your actions: where did that come from? Then invite God upriver into your heart to make some changes.

DAY READ EXODUS 14:1-30

3

Is it ever wrong to pray? Evidently God thought Moses could be doing something better. Notice that in verse 15 God tells Moses to stop crying out (praying) and to start leading. There are times when we have all the direction we need; we are just afraid to act. So we hide behind spiritual sounding excuses instead of doing what we know God wants. Are you avoiding God or obeying Him? God had a huge victory planned for Moses. All he had to do was his small part with courage. The next time you want to duck out, step out in faith and watch God do amazing things!

DAY READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

4

Want to know God's will for your life? Start with today's passage. You might be surprised to realize that God has a bigger plan for your life than having you in church on Sundays, and He doesn't keep His will a secret. Instead, He tells us. Like in today's passage, God's will is spelled out in detail. He wants us to lead lives of sexual purity. That means no messing around outside of marriage. God's way is always the best way. It hurts when we reject it, and it is incredible when we embrace it. The Bible is full of God's will for our lives. God's will is not hidden in the dark. The question is: are you living by the light you have?

DAY READ MATTHEW 6:33-34

5

How good are you at running backwards? The world record for running 200m backwards is 31.56 seconds. That's pretty fast. But the record for running 200m forward is 19.19 seconds. Of course, it is faster to run forward... that's how we were built to run. That's the idea with today's reading. Your life was meant to run on faith. When you put God first, everything else falls into place. When you put other things first, it's an awkward train wreck waiting to happen. Imagine going through your day backwards. You walk around the house in reverse. You get into the car and sit facing the back. You try to work facing the opposite direction. Your day would be wasted. So, turn around, put God first today, and watch how He takes care of all your needs!

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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