

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

June 14, 2015 – Seeing is Believing

A Quarter Horse has 2000 pounds of force (PSI) in each back leg when kicking and putting pressure on the ground. The truth is they can easily pull their own weight for a long period of time, and most can pull twice their weight for a short distance and do it very fast! John Patterson's little horse stood barely 14 hands, and John would rope those huge bulls that easily weighed twice what his horse did, and that little horse would jump and down pull that bull out of the pen. He had learned to have confidence in his ability and trust his master.

What holds most horses back is their lack of confidence and insecurity in their abilities. It's the same with people. You are capable of so much more than you think, but you can't see it.

In our scripture this morning, God has had enough of Israel following the gods of the Midianites and turned Israel over to the Midianites for 7 years. God will give you what you think you want at times...and let you see how it works out for you. Midianite people would steal all their crops and families anytime they needed something. The people of Israel would hide in caves.

Judges 6:11-16 ¹¹ ***The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a wine press to keep it from the Midianites.***

Gideon was hiding in a (winepress) pit. Threshing was done on a high flat spot to blow the chaff away and keep the wheat. Instead, Gideon was in a pit to keep it from the Midianites. You would think that God would tell him to get out of the pit.

¹² ***When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."***

Gideon felt nothing like a mighty warrior. IN fact, he felt like the exact opposite! There was a huge gap between what Gideon saw in himself and what God saw in him. Because Gideon could not see himself this way, it was hard for him to believe what God said to him.

When you see what God sees, you will believe what God says

Let the excuses begin ...

13 “Pardon me, my Lord, “Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of the Midian.”

14 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?”

God has given you as an individual, strengths and talents that are just enough to you started on what God wants you to do.

One of the greatest enemies of you focusing on your strengths is social media...you are comparing others highlight reel with your behind the scenes. A friend posts a picture of a homemade meal – and your family is at the drive through eating out of sack!

A friend posts a picture of the night out with their husband – and you and your husband have stared at each other for an hour.

A friend posts endless pictures of their kids – and you’re regretting having yours.

If we could focus on the strengths God has given us and forget our weaknesses, we would do what God says about us.

If God needed someone taller, He would have made you that way.

If God needed someone prettier, He would have made you that way.

When you criticize the product – you offend the maker.

15 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

16 The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

The Turning Point for Gideon (end of Chapter 6): he cut down the Asherah pole and the alter to Baal and offered a sacrifice to God **“And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him”**

Right here in the story, there are 135,000 Midianite soldiers and God has 1 scared teenager who is afraid of his own shadow...and God looks down and says, “I like what I am seeing”

Gideon was able (with his new perspective) to rally 32,000 fighters (when you see what God sees, it affects everyone around you).

And God said you won't need that many. God cut it down to 10,000 and then down to 300. Gideon defeated 135,000 Medianites with 300 men...400 to 1 odds.

Romans 8:31-37 (Paul talking to a scared group of Roman Christians)

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long:

We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

When you see what God sees, you will believe what God says.