

Judges 6:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

Analysis

Gideon obeys but does so at night out of fear: 'because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city.' This qualified obedience reveals Gideon's ongoing weakness—faith sufficient to obey but not yet bold enough to do so publicly. Taking ten servants suggests both the work's magnitude and Gideon's need for support/protection. The narrative balances commending obedience with exposing weakness, showing God works through flawed people. Peter's denial and later boldness (John 18:17, Acts 2:14) parallels Gideon's fearful-yet-obedient faith. God graciously accepts imperfect obedience while sanctifying His servants toward greater boldness.

Historical Context

Night operations were tactically prudent—discovery during the act would have caused immediate violent opposition. The servants' cooperation shows some within Ophrah shared Gideon's covenant faithfulness or at least loyalty to him. That ten men were needed suggests the Baal altar and Asherah pole were substantial structures, not minor household shrines. The risk was real—later, the men of the city demand Gideon's death (verse 30).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can we distinguish between wise prudence and faithless fear when obeying God's commands?
2. What does God's acceptance of Gideon's nighttime obedience teach about His patience with weak faith?
3. How does this account encourage believers who obey God despite fear rather than waiting for perfect courage?

Interlinear Text

פָּאֵשׁ רַיִן עָשָׂה מִעֲבָדָיו אֲנָשִׁים
took Then Gideon ten of his servants and did
H3947 H1439 H6235 H376 H5650 H6213 H834

פָּאֵשׁ רַיִן יְהִי הָאָלֹהֶיךָ
had said as the LORD H1961 H834
H1696 H3068

וְאַתָּה אָבִיךָ בְּבֵית אֶתְרָא
unto him and so it was because he feared household his father's H853 H1004 H1 H853
H3372

לִילָה: וְיִעַשׂ יוֹמָם בְּעִיר אֲנָשִׁים
of the city and did it by day and did it by night
H376 H5892 H6213 H3119 H6213 H3915

Additional Cross-References

John 2:5 (Parallel theme): His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 (Parallel theme): But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

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