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BC Preaching

September 19, 2021

Noise: Shut it out

You ever been in a car with a backseat driver. You know that person that points out everything they think you should do, everything that you should not be doing. Every turn that you should take or maybe should not have taken. In life there, are many times it is as if we are on a long trip and the noise that is in the car often causes us doubt if the next turn we are about to take is the right one. This noise in our life will cause us to doubt the power and plan that God has for us. This morning we are going to see how Gideon had to take out the noise in order to see God have his way and do mighty things through his life. There may be a noise this morning that you need to call forth in order for God to be magnified through you.

 For the last three weeks we have been talking hearing God through the chaos and Noise of the world. Last week we talked about how his sheep hear his voice and they follow the Good shepherd into the greener pastures. This week we see The effects of the noise and the result of shutting them out.

**God sees not only who you are but who you can be with him**

**Judges 6:11-12 (NIV)** 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 winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, **“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” [[1]](#footnote-1)**

Is it ok for me to say this… Everyone look at me, The Lord is with you Mighty Warrior. Don’t allow anyone to tell you any different. I may not be the man… But I know a man, and He lives in me…… and he is greater than anything in the world… AMEN.

**Noise causes weak theology**

**Judges 6:13 (NIV)** 13 “But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.” [[2]](#footnote-2)

When you don’t understand what God is doing, it’s either **DISCIPLINE** to get your attention, or He’s carrying you through something to **DEEPEN** your walk with Him. For Israel, it’s **DISCIPLINE**. For Gideon, it’s more on the side of **DEEPENING**.

**Noise causes weak Self-Esteem**

**Judges 6:14-15 (NIV**) 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?” 15 “But Lord,” Gideon asked, “how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, **and I am the least in my family**.” [[3]](#footnote-3)

You begin to question the power, the presence, and the passion that God put in you. We cheat ourselves out of a major blessing.

**Noise Causes weak Faith**

**Judges 6:16 (NIV)** 16 The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Gideon desired a sign [explain the 3 signs]; (6:20-22 Fire consumed the offering; 6:36-40 Fleece on the ground 1st it would be wet then be dry) in both incidents’ revelation was so rare and wickedness so prevalent that they desired full assurance. God graciously gave it” (MacArthur).**

When the noise starts to come it will cause you to fleece God. You know him, you see him, but you keep wanting to make sure. Kinda what happens at a 4 way stop. You know it’s your turn, but you’re not sure everyone else knows it’s your turn.

**God excepts where you are but immediately begins to move you close to him**

In Judges 6:17-222 Gideon builds and altar at home with a young goat and ask the angle of the Lord to show him a sign that God is with him, and the angle of the Lord consumes the offering with fire.

Knowing that Gideon was afraid, He started out by giving Him a task right at home that He and the people could see God through. **God started with Gideon right where he was.** After all, if we don’t practice our faith at home, how can we practice it anyplace else? Gideon had to take his stand in his own village before he could take it to the battlefield. [Wiersbe]

We can’t expect to be Mighty Warriors out there if we can’t be mighty warriors in here……..

**Judges 6:25 (NIV)** 25 That same night the Lord said to him, “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. [[5]](#footnote-5)

He took a private stand with his alter but now had to be obedient in taking a public stand against Baal.

**God wants top priority in your life**

**Judges 6:26 (NIV)** 26 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.” [[6]](#footnote-6)

God doesn’t hesitate to get right to it, talk about a bold move, not only tearing down the Asherah pole, but using the wood off it to offer up a burnt offering. He either is or he is not.

**You will be afraid but you must obey God anyway**

**Judges 6:27 (NIV)** 27 So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. **But because he was afraid** of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime. [[7]](#footnote-7)

Its ok to be afraid, but that doesn’t stop you from following through.

The life of faith does not free the Christian from the life of Obedience.

 - Ralph P. Martin

**You will be misunderstood and mistreated because you are different**

**Judges 6:28-32 (NIV)** 28 In the morning when the men 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! 29 They asked each other, “Who did this?” When they carefully investigated, they were told, “Gideon son of Joash did it.” 30 The men 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.” 31 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.” 32 **So that day they called Gideon “Jerub-Baal,”** saying, “Let Baal contend with him,” because he broke down Baal’s altar. [[8]](#footnote-8)

Often times when you follow God’s leading, the lost world will misunderstand you and before you know it, you are the center of their cross hairs.

**God uses your weakness and His power to do the impossible**

**Judges 7:2-7 (NIV)** 2 The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men (**3500**) for me to deliver Midian into their hands(**135,000+).** **In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her**, 3 announce now to the people, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’ ” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. 4 But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and **I will sift them** for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” 5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink.” 6 Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. 7 The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place.**” *31,700 men leave…it gets even worse…look what God sent them to battle with:*[[9]](#footnote-9)**

 **Judges 7:16 (NIV)** 16 Dividing the **three hundred** men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. [[10]](#footnote-10)

Just imagine back at the beginning if Giedion had let the let the noise lead him astray. What if the noise stopped him from taking a stand and cutting down the Asherah pole? He would have never reached his potential in Christ.

This morning you were made for so much more. Shut the noise out and let God do the impossible through you.

**God did the impossible through jars of clay with the light inside of them, imagine what he wants to do through us.**

1. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)