

Study #12

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BECOME A MAN OF SIGNIFICANCE



WARM UP

A well-known woman preacher had a dream in which she was in heaven and God was giving out crowns for service. Her name was called and angels came forward with about 50 crowns. She didn't feel she deserved so many, then the Lord explained that they weren't all for her. Then she saw that many others had stood when her name was called. These were ones who had helped her in her ministry, in prayer, hospitality, administration and so on, and they shared her reward. As the dream continued, a famous evangelist was called and again many stood to receive

BACKGROUND

The book of Judges tells us what life was like in Israel after the death of Joshua. There was no formal leadership but a series of deliverers (judges), such as Gideon. During the period of the judges a repeated cycle of events took place. Firstly the people turned away from God, often to worship other gods. Then God allowed an enemy to overrun them. Thirdly they cried out to God for help. Fourthly God sent a judge/deliverer to save them. Fifthly, once they were safe and smug, they forgot God again. It was when Israel was overrun and oppressed by the Midianites that God raised Gideon up to bring deliverance. When God called him he saw himself as small and insignificant, a nobody, but God saw him as a mighty warrior.

crowns. Then she saw that an elderly lady who had faithfully prayed for the evangelist received a bigger crown than he did. The way God measures significance is different to how we measure significance.

READ Judges 6:11-14

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

1. Why do you think there's often such a difference in the way we see ourselves compared to how God sees us?
2. How does God tell us what He thinks about us?

3. Make a list of all the things you can think of that God calls us. (Chosen, beloved, victorious, etc.)
4. Select one item from the list then share what difference it would make to how you would be at home, at work, and in church, if you really believed what God says about you.

CONSIDER THIS

Gideon saw himself as a little nobody, but God told him to "go in the strength you have", which Gideon did, and as they say - the rest is history. With his army whittled down to 300 Gideon won an incredible victory over an army, which the Bible says was like "the sand of the sea shore for multitude". The theme of God using the little we have is also seen in the feeding of the 5000 with one boy's lunch, a widow's cruse of oil that kept pouring out until she had enough to pay off her debts, and Samson killing 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. God asks each of us to, "go in the strength you have", in other words to do what we can, or to use what little we've got, and He will do the rest.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

Instead of being like Gideon who said, "I'm a nobody", or the widow with the cruse of oil who said, "I have nothing", I will look carefully at the strength I have, at the gift I have, at what I have in my hand, and determine to use it for God.



WRAP UP

The key to significance is to discover what God's will is and to do it (in His strength). This way we can all be significant.