

Reality and Results will come.

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Sunday morning service

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Judges 6:1-10

Gideon

6 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴ They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵ They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

⁷ When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

The people of Israel went through a lot of trials and temptations.

They found themselves in valley situations, being put under oppression, but every time they turned to God - He rescued them.

Often, we find ourselves in situations where we do not know what to do - we don't believe we can achieve better results or that things can change - BUT God knows what we must do, and by doing it, we can achieve better results.

According to God's Word Reality and Results will come into our lives.

When it comes, let us heed to God's Word and instructions.

If we do not heed to God's instructions, our situation can become worse than what it was before.

When we trust, believe and call upon His Name, He comes through for us.

The lives of the Israelites in slavery were not good, but they had food; livestock; housing and family life.

Yes, they were in slavery – they were bound to an area and had to work for the Egyptians, but their lives were not in danger.

- God took them out of slavery.
- He gave them a land with extraordinary crops.
- The problem with the Israelites were, they thought they had it made.
- They had all their hearts desired.
- They put themselves on a pedestal.
- They even started worshipping the gods of the Amorites.

As a result, they had...

Verse 2: No built houses

Verse 3: Their harvests weren't safe

Verse 4: There was nothing spared

Verse 5: The land God gave them was taken and ravaged.

Once again, the Israelites became so despondent that they...

Verse 6: cried out to God for help.

We could find ourselves in that situation – God takes us out, but we go back to worse...

Verse 7-10: "But you have not listened."

We need to listen.

As with Moses, God spoke to Gideon to set the Israelites free.

Joshua warned the Israelites of a time like this.

Joshua 23:14-16

¹⁴ "Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed. ¹⁵ But just as all the good things the Lord your God has promised you have come to you, so he will bring on you all the evil things he has threatened, until the Lord your God has destroyed you from this good land he has given you. ¹⁶ If you violate the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the Lord's anger will burn against you, and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you."

- There is an expiry date on the devil's work in our lives.
- Your lifestyle must be conducive to your life.
- When we live this way – what we sow, we will reap.
- We will not lose our harvest.
- Whatever I sow, will not be eaten by others.

John 4:34-38

³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Verse 38: Things you have not laboured for, you will reap.

- God will work hand and hand with you and for you against the enemy.
- God is setting up a system for our sustenance.
- The fastest way to turn things around is to turn back to God.
- The Lord will remove what you fear, especially in your camp (the things closest to you).
- We must do our best as God has instructed us and leave the rest to God.

We need to be aware of:

1. Those who build with us in partnership (closer connection).
2. Those who build for us in representation (those who represent us).
3. Those who build after us in succession (ready to run with the task).
4. Those who build with our team in synergy (supporting/encouraging/working together).
5. Those who build with friends in alliance (Support structure, inside and outside).
6. Those who build with the Holy Spirit in discernment (hearing what God is saying).
7. Those who build into others with oversight (to know when need is required).
8. Those who build into themselves (we all need to grow individually as well).
9. Those who build in the church for stature (Improving yourself in God's Word amongst others/helping others to grow).
10. Those who build with us for Kingdom Advancement (working together as a team).

The most important thing in our lives is to listen.

We need to listen more and talk less.

When we hear what God is saying and our lives come into alignment with God's Word, things change for the better.

What we talk, we must live.

When people spend time with me and they talk with me – they get to know the real me.

Not what I post on Facebook.

Not the sticker on my car.

Those things can be good, they can also be fake.

The reality of who I am will come out in the results of how I act

The reality of who I am will come out in the results of my actions.