

# Restoring God's Pattern and Purposes

## Molding Men of Honor Part 3

### *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 2nd*

Over the past few weeks we've been examining how God designed mankind *"in His Image"* (Pattern: Gen. 1:26,27) and *"for his pleasure"* (Purposes: Rev. 4:11). Satan as *"the god of this world"* (2 Cor. 4:4) seeks to diminish or destroy God's Pattern (image or reflection) in our lives and distract us from God's purposes. (1 Jn. 2:15-17) The Bible is filled with accounts of how God sought to restore His Pattern and fulfill His purposes through men and women who would cooperate with Him. Gideon is one of many such men. 1 Cor. 10:11 reminds us that: *"these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition,"*

Mankind is the crown of God's Creation because we're Created In God's Image (Gen. 1:26) and for His Purposes. (Rev. 4:11) That's why Satan hates us! According to 1 Jn. 2:16 Satan uses the lust of Passions, Possessions, and Positions to Diminish God's Image (Pattern) in our lives (Rom. 1) and to Distract us from God's Purposes. (Mk. 4:19) God's actively at work to "restore" His pattern and purposes in our lives! *Last week we saw from Judges 6 how:*

*Satan seduces us to sin. Vs 1 Sin always brings suffering. Vs 1-5 Suffering can lead to supplication. Vs 6; Supplication leads to a "sermon" Vs 7-10 and a "solution." Vs 11-14*

***This "solution" came in the form of a man named Gideon!***

God didn't just see Gideon as he was (fearful, frustrated and fuming), But as he could become if he's allow God's pattern and purpose to be restored in His life! *"A mighty man of Valor"* Vs 12

### **1. The Process God used to transform Gideon. Judges 6**

- A. A Personal "Commission" Vs 14 *"thou shalt save Israel, have not I sent thee..."*
- B. A Powerful "Consolation" Vs 16 *"Surely I will be with thee"*
- C. A Personal "Commitment" 24 *"Gideon built an altar and called it Jehovah Shalom"*
- D. A Private "Challenge" Vs 25,26 *"Throw down the altar of Baal"*

### **2. The Purposes for which God "transformed" Gideon. Jd 6:33-Ch. 7**

A. To Deliver Israel from oppression. Vs 33 135,000 *"Midianites, Amalekites, and Children of the East pitched in Jezreel"*

- 1) They came to pillage as before.
- 2) They weren't expecting a challenge!
- 3) Why hadn't Israel fought back? There were over 1,000,000 Jewish men.
  - a) Intimidation. *What can I do?*
  - b) Indifference. *Not my problem. It doesn't immediately affect me.*
- 4) This time God had a "Gideon" to work with and through! Vs 34 *"But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him."*  
*Abiezer literally means "Father of help"*
  - a) *God's Spirit stirred up Gideon.*
  - b) *A few men came to "help" him.*
  - c) *They sent messengers to join them. Vs 35*

d) Only 32,000 came! Judges 7

## 5) God continues to “mold” Gideon by teaching him about Faith. 7:1-7

a) Began with 32,000 against 135,000. (4 to 1) Still too many for real faith! 7:2

b) God weeds out the 22,000 “wimps”. 7:3 Leaving 10,000 against 135,000 (13 to 1)

c) God whittles the warriors down to 300. (13 to 1) vs 4 “*the people are yet too many.*”  
That changes the “odds” to 450 to 1! Judges 7:7 “*By the three hundred... will I save you*”

### Conclusion:

- What if Gideon wasn't willing to stretch? Trust and Obey?
- What if no one was willing to overcome their intimidation or indifference?

### Intimidation and Indifference are ever Satan's allies.

Both of these were present in Early America. Boston took the brunt of British intimidation with the “Coercive Acts of 1774.” While many (mostly those who were the least affected) preached “Patience and Pacifism”, others like Patrick Henry spoke out for support of New England. In March 23, 1775, he challenged the Virginia politicians to authorize the formation of a militia to defend themselves against British Aggression. A few weeks later (April 19<sup>th</sup>) 800 British troops were sent to Concord, Mass., to arrest Sam Adams and John Hancock and to seize a cache of weapons. Dr. Joseph Warren sent Paul Revere to warn Pastor Jonas Clark (where Adams and Hancock were staying). Pastor Clark alerted his male congregants and 60-70 men from the Church of Lexington stood armed on Lexington Green awaiting the Red Coats. Eight of his men were killed when the British opened fire. The colonists returned fire and fled. By the time the British arrived at the Concord Bridge, hundreds of other militia were gathered to resist them and the American Revolution officially began. Less than a month later (June 17) Dr. Joseph Warren (*the one who sent Paul Revere to warn of the British invasion*) gave his life at Bunker Hill. After signing the Declaration of Independence which closed with the phrase: “*with firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.*” Benjamin Franklin observed: “*Gentlemen, We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.*”

### Application:

All of Israel benefited from the sacrifice of Gideon and his 300 men. This week we'll celebrate the freedom and independence that so many others were willing to fight for.

- 1) How would the past 241 years be different if the colonial patriots chose indifference or intimidation over independence?
- 2) Aren't you glad God found some “Gideons” in our History who were willing to put:
  - Principle above Profit?
  - Character and Conviction above Convenience?
  - Courage above Complacency?
- 3) What will the future generations look like if God can't find men and women today who will allow Him to restore His Pattern and Purposes by molding them into “*mighty men (women) of valor*”? During the time of the American Revolution, Edmund Burke observed: “*All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing!*”

- Are you a “good man” (or Woman) ?
- Will you do nothing?

Or will you, like Gideon, partner with God to make a difference?

