

“Prepare” Series

Echo Church | Week 47 | November 23, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Part 4: “Prepare to Leave the Winepress... It’s Dew Season” | Judges 6 & Judges 7

Judges 6:11b-14 NKJV

Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

13 Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?”

Judges 6:36-40 NKJV

36 So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—

37 look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.”

38 And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.

39 Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.”

40 And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

Judges 7:2; 7 NKJV

2 And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ 3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.’ ” And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

7 Then the LORD said to Gideon, “By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.” 8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

### **Introduction: The Winepress of Fear**

Have you ever found yourself in a place where you're just trying to survive? Maybe it's a job you hate, a relationship that's draining you, or a dream you've put on the shelf because life got too hard. You're not thriving—you're just getting by. That's where we find Gideon in Judges 6. He's in a winepress, threshing wheat. Now, that's not where you're supposed to thresh wheat. It's supposed to be done in an open space where the wind can do the work. But Gideon is hiding, scared of the Midianites, just trying to make it through another day. And then God shows up. He calls Gideon a 'mighty man of valor.' Imagine that! God sees something in Gideon that Gideon doesn't even see in himself. And maybe, just maybe, God is saying the same thing to you today. It's time to leave the winepress. It's time to step into your dew season."

### **Point 1: Gideon in the Winepress – Fear vs. Faith**

Scripture: Judges 6:11-12 (NKJV)

"Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree... while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!'"

Threshing wheat in a winepress was not just unusual—it was inefficient. Threshing was typically done on a threshing floor, an open, elevated area where the wind could separate the grain from the chaff. But Gideon was in survival mode, hiding from the Midianites, who had been raiding Israel for seven years. The Midianites weren't just stealing crops—they were stripping the land bare, leaving Israel impoverished and hopeless. Gideon's actions reflect the fear and oppression of an entire nation. Yet, in the middle of this fear, God shows up and calls him a "mighty man of valor." Isn't it just like God to call us by our destiny, not our dysfunction?

Let's be honest—how many of us are threshing wheat in our own winepresses? Maybe you're hiding your gifts because you're afraid of failure. Maybe you're playing small because you don't want to draw attention to yourself. Or maybe you're just trying to make it through the day, hoping no one notices how overwhelmed you feel. But here's the thing: God doesn't see you as you are; He sees you as He created you to be. He sees the warrior in you, even when you're stuck in survival mode.

Supporting Scriptures:

2 Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

"Fear will keep you in the winepress, but faith will call you out into the open where God's promises are waiting."

### **Point 2: The Dew – Divine Provision and Life**

Scripture: Judges 6:36-40 (NKJV)

"So Gideon said to God, 'If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.' And it was so."

In the ancient Near East, dew was a critical source of moisture, especially in arid regions where rainfall was scarce. It symbolized life, sustenance, and divine provision. Gideon's request for dew on the fleece wasn't just about needing a sign—it was about needing assurance that God was truly with him. The dew was a supernatural confirmation that couldn't be explained by natural causes. But here's the thing: Gideon's request also reveals his humanity. He had already seen the Angel of the Lord and received a promise, but he still doubted. And isn't that just like us? We've seen God move before, but when He calls us to something new, we still ask, "God, are You sure?"

How many times have you asked God for a sign? Maybe you've prayed, "God, if this is really You, let me get that job," or "If You want me to do this, give me a clear confirmation." And God, in His grace, often meets us where we are. But here's the deeper lesson: the dew wasn't just a sign for Gideon—it was a reminder of God's faithfulness. Sometimes, God's provision isn't loud or dramatic. It's quiet, like dew on the ground. Are you recognizing the dew in your life? The small ways God is showing up, providing, and sustaining you?

Supporting Scriptures:

Hosea 14:5: "I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, and lengthen his roots like Lebanon."

Lamentations 3:22-23: "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

"Dew doesn't make noise, but it nourishes the earth. God's provision may not always be loud, but it's always enough."

### **Point 3: The 300 – God Can Do More with Less**

Scripture: Judges 7:7 (NKJV)

"Then the Lord said to Gideon, 'By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.'"

The Midianites were a powerful, nomadic tribe known for their camels—essentially the tanks of the ancient world. They had stripped Israel bare, leaving the people impoverished and terrified. Gideon started with 32,000 men, but God reduced his army to just 300. Why? Because God wanted Israel to know that the victory was His, not theirs. The method of selection—lapping water like a dog—wasn't about skill or strength. It was about obedience and trust. God was making a statement: "I don't need your numbers. I don't need your strength. I just need your faith."

Let's bring this home. How many of us feel like we don't have enough? Not enough money, not enough time, not enough talent. But here's the truth: God doesn't need your abundance; He needs your obedience. Sometimes, He'll strip away the things you think you need to show you that He's all you really need. Gideon's 300 weren't just soldiers—they were a statement. A statement that God's power is made perfect in weakness. So, stop focusing on what you don't have and start trusting the God who can do the impossible with what you do have.

Supporting Scriptures:

Zechariah 4:6: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts."

2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

"God doesn't need your abundance; He needs your obedience. When God is in it, less is always more."

**Conclusion: It's Time to Leave the Winepress**

Gideon's story is our story. We've all had winepress moments—times when fear kept us hiding, when doubt made us question God's calling, when we felt like we didn't have enough. But just like Gideon, God is calling you out of the winepress. He's calling you into your dew season—a season of provision, renewal, and victory. The same God who put dew on the fleece is the same God who's working in your life today. And just like Gideon's 300, God can do more with less. So, stop hiding. Stop doubting. Stop waiting for the perfect conditions. It's time to step out in faith, trust God's provision, and walk into the victory He's already prepared for you. Because when God is in it, the odds don't matter. It's your dew season—are you ready to leave the winepress?