

TEXT: Judges 6:1-35

Intro: Today we're learning from a man who struggled with feelings of inferiority and inadequacy. Gideon didn't just see himself as an "unlikely hero", he saw himself as the "least likely" hero. Yet, the Lord didn't see him that way and transformed him from **Zero to Hero**.

After 40 years of peace, God's people came under tremendous oppression from the Midianites. For 7 years Israel has fled cruelty, hiding from the armies and raiding parties of the Midianites and Amalekites.

- ❖ The people cried out to God for help and the Lord first sends a Prophet who told them where they went wrong.
 - I love that God did this... It really did 2 things.
 - It reminded Israel what God had already done for them.
 - It clearly communicated Israel's responsibility for the situation they were in.
 - If I'm experiencing a lot of negative things, do I have any responsibility for my situation or experience?

Gideon's Call - The Angel of the Lord shows up at Gideon's house. vv. 6-11

- ❖ The Lord knows where you live, even if you're off the grid.
- ❖ God knows where you are at physically and emotionally. Gen 3:9
 - He's willing to be around us even in our lowest moments. And He always KNOWS what we really NEED to HEAR!
 - God had a Word for Gideon that would move Him from ZERO to HERO. He wants to encourage you toward realizing and fulfilling His dream and purpose in you too.
- ❖ The making of a HERO begins in the HEART.
 - Gideon was WORKING. Sure he was in a hole, but he didn't let the fear of danger keep him from providing for his family.
 - Gideon's heart was to honor God. He prepared an offering even though resources were tight. v.18, v.6
- ❖ The Lord calls Gideon. "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you."
 - Gideon's feelings of inferiority lead him to respond two ways.
 - Gideon was quick to blame God. vv.12-14 "Where are the miracles of our fathers? If you are with us, why has this happened to us? Where were you at God?"
 - Gideon blamed God for his situation, what about you?

- Gideon was SLOW to trust God – v.15 Like Gideon, too many Believers think they are the "least likely" hero.
 - What are yours? What are the things that you believe you're the least of the least at?
- Do you let your circumstances define your faith or does your faith define your circumstances?

Inferiority and feelings of inadequacy keep too many from becoming the HERO they are meant to be.

- ❖ Feeling inferior and/or inadequate can reveal itself in many ways:
 - Overly Sensitive – do small critical comments *REALLY* upset you and get you feeling depressed and upset for days.
 - Do you compare yourself to the BEST qualities of others? Remember, they have areas of improvement too.
 - Act inferior – "social rank theory" do I behave how I feel inside?
 - Perfectionism – to a perfectionist, nothing they do is good enough.
 - Inaction – Do your feelings keep you from taking action, meeting people, or trying new things? Not being good at something is the first step at being kinda good at it.
 - Does Social Media make you feel guilty, jealous, or ashamed?
 - Do you find yourself being overly judgmental of others?

Overcoming Inferiority

- ❖ Let God change your self-image. Romans 12:1-2
 - Destroy the lies you've believed, confess your new identity, stop comparing yourself to others. Gideon compared himself, his family, and his tribe to others; don't fall in the same trap.
 - Overcoming the fear of inadequacy requires changing our thinking patterns. Occasionally God nudges us to do something far beyond our comfort zone – serve at church, serve on the PTA or your HOA, provide foster care, or go to lunch with someone you don't know too well.
 - Our natural tendency might be to think, "Who, me?" "I can't do that!" We find courage to say yes by filling our minds with His truth. Philippians 4:13
- ❖ Admitting our fear is another step toward freedom.
- ❖ Obey God! Move forward despite the fear.
 - What new opportunities lay before you? What dreams lay hidden in your heart? Don't let the fear of inadequacy hinder you from fulfilling God's purpose for your life. Take courage, move forward, and watch as fear takes flight.