



Seeing Me Through
The Eyes Of Faith

Judges 6:11-14

Philip Yancey said, “Faith is believing in advance something that will only seem logical when seen in reverse.”

- **1st Samuel 16:6-7 MSG** 6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Here he is! God’s anointed!” 7 But God told Samuel, “Looks aren’t everything. Don’t be impressed with his looks and stature. I’ve already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart.”

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- **1st Samuel 16:10-11 MSG** 10 Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, “God hasn’t chosen any of these.” 11 Then he asked Jesse, “Is this it? Are there no more sons?” “Well, yes, there’s the runt. But he’s out tending the sheep.” Samuel ordered Jesse, “Go get him. We’re not moving from this spot until he’s here.”

Philip Yancey said, “Faith is believing in advance something that will only seem logical when seen in reverse.”

- **1st Samuel 16:12 MSG** 12 Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking. God said, “Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one.”

God saw David for what he was going to be and not where he was at now

- I believe David began to see himself through the eyes of God
- Not in arrogance or pride but humility and a sense of unworthiness

God sees David for what he was going to be and not where he was at now

- He saw himself as more than a conqueror through God how gave him strength
 - How could he fight a bear and lion?
 - How could he stand before Goliath?
- **Romans 8:37 NIV** In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

God sees David for what he was going to be and not where he was at now

- **Psalms 18:1-2 NIV** 1 I love you, Lord, my strength. 2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- Christians today have lost the sense of who we are in Christ Jesus

God sees David for what he was going to be and not where he was at now

- Yes, Jesus loves us and saved us, but it is so much deeper than that
- Salvation is just the door to a life of great expectations of faith
- But we must know who we are and know who God is and look past current selves and see the glorious life God has laid out for us

Judges 6:11-14 NIV

- 11 The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

Judges 6:11-14 NIV

- 13 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

Judges 6:11-14 NIV

- 14 The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

God gives us a new clarity when we come to Him

- We begin to see life a whole lot clearer
- We see ourselves. We see our problems. We see our past, our present, our future. All more clearly.
- Everything gets a little clearer the closer you get to God.

- **Ephesians 1:18 MSG** 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.
- Mahatma Gandhi, “A man is but the product of his thoughts, what he thinks, he becomes.”
- **Proverbs 23:7 NKJV** For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you

- Where did God find Gideon?
 - In a winepress trying miserably to thresh wheat
 - It was hot, itchy, not very productive



It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you

- So why was he here?
- **Judges 6:1 NIV** The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites.

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- So why was he here doing this?
- **Judges 6:10 NIV** 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.”

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- So why was he here doing this?
- **Judges 6:2-4 NIV** 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.

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- So why was he here doing this?
- **Judges 6:2-4 NIV** 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.

It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you

- Israel cried out to the Lord and God is going to rescue them and use a young man threshing wheat in a winepress
 - It does not fill your mind with great expectations of military hopes

It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you

- The angel of the Lord calls Gideon a might warrior
- Can you imagine the look on Gideon's face?
 - There was no fear in his heart because this is the most ridiculous thing he has ever heard

It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you

- Notice the order of verse 12, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”
 - You are a mighty warrior Gideon not because of you, but because God has promised to be with you
 - Since the Lord is with you Gideon, He will make you a mighty warrior for Him

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- It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you
- Gideon was a young man, without any military training, not a natural born leader
- Jacob was a liar and swindler, Moses was a failure on the back side of the mountain, Philemon was a runaway slave, John Mark was a quitter

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- It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you
- Abraham was over 90 years old, and remember Zechariah the father of John the Baptist was ancient or old Simeon in Luke
- Today we say “Not me. It is different with me. God does not need me today like this. I’m too young to old.”

It matters not where you start from or even when you start, but where God is taking you

- Where does God want to take you? What place does He have for you in His kingdom?
- Just like Gideon, God is calling you to be a great warrior this morning and just like Gideon, since God is with us, we are
 - **Romans 8:37 NIV** In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

God works at clarifying Gideon's attitude

- We get bad attitudes at time, don't we?
 - We all have expectations in this life and the further we get from those expectation the sourer our attitude is
- God said in verse 12, "The Lord is with you"
- Gideon say in verse 13, "If the Lord is with us"

God works at clarifying Gideon's attitude

- **Vs. 13** If God is with us, where is He at?
 - If we are His people, why are the Median's allowed to do this every year? If you are with me why am I in a winepress threshing wheat?
 - He has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Median

God works at clarifying Gideon's attitude

- God doesn't criticize Gideon for his attitude, He doesn't condemn him before using him, He doesn't withhold His blessing
- **Vs. 14** The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"
- The Lord turned and looked deep into Gideon and filled him with an image of what He saw in Gideon

God works at clarifying Gideon's attitude

- Gideon is not spiritual, but God is going to change how he sees himself and use him greatly
- Gideon is not ready, but he is called
- God has a call on every born-again child of God regardless of age, station in life, successes, failures, trials and errors

God works at clarifying Gideon's attitude

- You might say this morning, “I could never talk to someone about Jesus because I don't know enough.”
- If you have truly been saved you know enough
- Gideon didn't feel enough either

God commands Gideon to simply go, as ill-equipped as he feels, solely because God is sending him

- God tells Gideon to go, start the journey, and become what I have seen in you
- **Vs. 14** The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

God commands Gideon to simply go, as ill-equipped as he feels, solely because God is sending him

- Go in the strength you presently have, as weak as it is
- You don't have to get skilled as a warrior first Gideon
- You don't even have to know where to get an army
- Give me your limited strength and I will do great things through it
- Go save Israel out of Midian's hand

God commands Gideon to simply go, as ill-equipped as he feels, solely because God is sending him

- I'm giving you the desire of your heart Gideon
- You just didn't expect to be the tool God uses
- Am I not sending you?
- You go forward solely because you now know "I AM" is sending you
- This would have drawn connections in Gideon's mind to Moses and his calling at the burning bush

God commands Gideon to simply go, as ill-equipped as he feels, solely because God is sending him

- What desire is on your heart this morning?
 - Is it from God or something God would be pleased in?
- God is telling us today, “It is ok for you to go out and become conquerors solely because I am your God.”
- Go out like David in humble courage solely because God has chosen us

You must truthfully see yourself through God's eyes

- What does God see in you?
- **1st Peter 2:9 NIV** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- **1st John 4:4a NLT** But you belong to God, my dear children.

You must truthfully see yourself through God's eyes

- Stop looking at what you are, what you have done, where you are at
- See through the eyes of God, using your mustard seed faith, and see you are more than you can even imagine
- Let God increase your faith as you see yourself more clearly through His Word
 - Not in yourself but in the God who loves you, calls you and equips you for conquering wherever He takes you



In all these things
we are more than
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Romans 8:37 NIV