

Teachings on Greatness

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Seeds of Greatness - Lesson 2 The Man of Valour

There was a time in the history of Israel when they were ruled by judges. The perquisite of keeping God's law brought peace and if they did contrary, they would have no rest from their enemies. Whenever they were humbled and they cried out to God for help, He would raise a Judge to save them, who would then judge the people till he died. After which they returned to being disobedient. This was a repeated cycle during the period of the Judges in Israel.

A time came when the Midianites oppressed the children of Israel by the hand of God because of their disobedience. The oppressors decimated the harvest, they left no sustenance such that even their flock suffered. Israel was impoverished and lived in fear; **Judges 6 vs 2** - And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel; because of the Midianites the children of Israel made for the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds. The word of God lets us know that caves are a place of fear, sin, and possibly death.

Great men do not hide in caves. When we live in fear of men for whatever reason, we are in a cave. We are afraid of people when we should only be afraid of God. Do you know that when you are afraid of God, you will stay away from sin? **Proverbs 8 vs 13a** – the fear of the LORD is to hate evil. Jesus told His disciples in **Luke 12:4-5** "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him! I encourage you today, fear God rather than man or the devil. **Proverbs 9 vs 10a**; The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Finally, the Israelites cried out to the Lord for deliverance. The LORD sent them a Prophet who reminded them that they had not obeyed Him, but He, the LORD will deliver them from the hands of the Midianites. **Gideon** the man whom God would use was in the winepress, the lowest part of the land. The angel of the LORD said to him, "the LORD is with thee, mighty man of valour." Why did he say that? The guy was shocked, I am hiding away here, and you are telling me this, how can this be, he must have thought? Gideon then responded in **Verse 13**; "Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of.....but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." God's response in **Verse 14**; it's not about you, it's about Me. "You have the strength. Deliver Israel from the power of the Midianites! Have I not sent you?"

Verse 15; "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." Gideon looked for every reason why he did not qualify to be called great and/or to save Israel.

Judges 6 vs 23-27; the LORD said to him, "Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die." Then, he received the instruction from God to pull down the altar of Baal and build an altar to Him which he did without question and he offered a burnt sacrifice to the Lord

on the wood of the Baal altar that was pulled down. And God did deliver Israel by the hand of Gideon in the battle.

Just as the Lord told Gideon, He is telling you the same thing today. You are great. You are my son. I died for your sins. For those who have not yet accepted that He died for their sins, the Lord is saying, if you believe today, if you accept me as your Lord and Saviour, you will become my child. He is reminding us that we are of His DNA, therefore, we are great. I was born great, so are you born great. Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world: **1 John 4 vs 4**.

Do not let the circumstances around you define you. Have a mind-set shift today. Do not allow past failures or rejection to define you. From your mistakes you'd have learnt something vital. **Jack Ma**, the founder of Alibaba - China's largest internet company and online shopping website did not allow failures and rejection to define him. Today, Alibaba is bigger than eBay and Amazon combined. On the day of the launch, it took 30 minutes to load a web-page, yet he was proud of himself. He had shown what was possible. As a young boy, he knew speaking English language would lead to his breakthrough. He offered free guides to tourists as a means to practice English language.

The young Jack Ma experienced rejection over and over again, but never gave up his dream. He applied to KFC and of the 24 applicants, he was the only one rejected. He applied four times to universities in China before he gained admission. At the same time he applied 10 times to Harvard University without success. He determined that one day he would teach in Harvard. Today he has given lectures in the top business schools all over the world, MIT, Harvard and the likes. When Alibaba floated on the NYSE it became the largest IPO (\$25 billion) in history. **Jack Ma** is now worth over 30 billion dollars.

Judy Murray - Andy and Jaimie's Mum did not give-up either. She had several rejections from the Sports Council, but kept the vision alive. She spent all she had on training the boys and last year November, both her boys became Number one in their field of sport. A few days ago, she was honoured by the Queen.

Do you want to start fulfilling your destiny of greatness? Do you want the seed of greatness that is in you to be stirred up? Do you want to win the battle of life? Acknowledge the One who put that seed in you. If you are not born again, come to Him today, because without Him you can do nothing. Are you looking for wisdom to carry out what He has put in you? Or even wisdom to live life to the fullest? **John 15 vs 7**; "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." **John 8 vs 31-32**; Jesus said to those Jews which believed in him, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."