

January 22, 2023

Did You Get My Text?

Understanding Some of the Most Misunderstood Stories in the Bible “Fleecing Your Faith”

Scripture: Judges 6:33-40 (Common English Bible)

³³ Some time later, all the Midianites, Amalekites, and other easterners joined together, came over, and set up camp in the Jezreel Valley. ³⁴ Then the LORD’s spirit came over Gideon, and he sounded the horn and summoned the Abiezrites to follow him.

³⁵ He sent messengers into all of Manasseh, and they were also summoned to follow him. Then he sent messengers into Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali too, and they marched up to meet them.

³⁶ But then Gideon said to God, “To see if you really intend to rescue Israel through me as you have declared, ³⁷ I’m now putting a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece but all the ground is dry, then I’ll know that you are going to rescue Israel through me, as you have declared.” ³⁸ And that is what happened. When he got up early the next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung out enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water.

³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Don’t be angry with me, but let me speak just one more time. Please let me make just one more test with the fleece: now let only the fleece be dry and let dew be on all the ground.” ⁴⁰ And God did so that night. Only the fleece was dry, but there was dew on all the ground.

~ SERMON NOTES ~

Gideon’s use of fleece seems like our common practice of flipping a coin. Is this really the way to find God’s will or divine purpose in a given situation? **This raises a key question: How does one discern the will of God?** Let me suggest some better ways than casting lots or putting out fleeces:

1. Be _____.

“Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God’s will.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

2. Be _____.

“Our high and privileged calling is to do the will of God in the power of God for the glory of God.” – J. I. Packer

3. Be _____.

“Never run before God gives direction. If you have the slightest doubt, then God is not guiding. Whenever there is doubt – wait.” – Oswald Chambers

4. Be _____.

“To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, to find the will of God is the greatest discovery, but to do the will of God is the greatest achievement.” – George John Truitt

