

Community Group Discussion Questions

“To Fleece or not to Fleece” Judges 6:36-40 July 28, 2018

Getting Started

The pursuit of a heart that follows God is to come to the place where God’s plan or will becomes our primary pursuit. However, the tension usually lies in the uncertainty of what exactly God is asking us to do. Today’s message seeks to give clarity in how to TRUST GOD VS. TEST GOD.

Share with us about a time when God was definitely leading you to make a decision, but you were still uncertain of ‘exactly’ what to do.

Going Deeper

1. **The Description of the Fleece:** *“laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor”* (Vs. 37)
 - a. **Clarification:** “throwing out the fleece” in religious terminology, means, “seeking to know God’s will”.
 - b. **Observation** (Gideon already knew God’s will): *“you will save Israel by my hand, **as you have said**”* (Vs. 37)

Many times, Christians say they don’t know what God wants them to do, yet they are willfully ignorant to obey the many clear things God has told them to do. **Read Psalm 37:4.** What is the progression and promise of this verse? (If I delight in the Lord, reading the Bible and knowing His heart, then my heart will become like His and I will ask for and desire the same things He does.)

When you have a decision to make and are not sure what to do, what are some habits you might pursue and some questions you might ask?

2. The Danger in the Fleece: *“If there is”* (Vs.37)

- a. **You Dictate the Terms:** *“dew on the fleece alone”* (Vs. 37)
- b. **You Determine the Truth:** *“then I shall know”* (Vs. 37)
- c. **You Define the Time:** *When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece* (Vs. 38)

It's tragically humorous how people with a 3 ½ pound brain, who had to be taught how to tie their shoes, would doubt an infinite God who can create everything out of nothing, but we do it every day.

Read Romans 11:33-34. What do these verses challenge us to remember?

3. The Decision for the Fleece: Gideon didn't walk by faith, but instead walked by a fleece.

- a. **Doubted God:** *“Let not your anger burn against me”* (Vs. 39)
- b. **Dishonored God:** *“Please let me **test** just once more with the fleece”* (Vs. 39)
 - i. **Deuteronomy 6:16:** *You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at **Massah***
 - ii. **Luke 4:12:** *And **Jesus** answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test*

Gideon had already seen God do amazing things in his life. Gideon had acted with great bravery and had been ‘clothed with the Spirit of God.’ Why is he now acting as if God is someone he can't trust? As you look back over your life and see all the times God has been faithful and strong for you, why do you sometimes struggle to trust Him? How can you grow beyond this?

4. The Deliverance from a Fleece: “*And God did so...*” (Vs. 40)

- Found In Scripture: (*Just as you said*) If HE said it, you can STAND on it!
- Led by the Spirit: (*Threshing Floor*) If HE called you, you can COUNT on it!
- Experienced Provision (*fill a bowl of water*): If HE provides it you are to PURSUE it!
- Examined your Intentions: (*Please, Please*): If HE revealed it, you are to REST in it!
- Confirmed by other People: (*all the people with him*) If HE endorses it, you are to ENGAGE in it!
- Exalts the Savior: (*and it was so*) If HE is glorified in it, GO after it!

Read Jeremiah 29:13. While this verse was originally given to the Israelites in captivity, the essence of it still applies to all of us. How can you take the promise of this verse and apply it to yourself the next time God puts a decision before you?

Takeaway: Throughout the Scripture up to Acts 1:26, the use of the fleece or lots were used, but after Acts 1:26 there is not a reference of this happening again...Why? THE HOLY SPIRIT RESIDES IN US GIVING CLARITY AND CONFIRMATION TO US!

Prayer Requests