

TITLE: "To Fleece or not to Fleece" TEXT: : Judges 6:36-40

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

1. The _____ 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)

2. The _____ 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: "he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece" (Vs. 38)

3. The _____ 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'"

4. The _____ from 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 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!

Take Away: Throughout the Scripture up to Acts 1:26, the use of the fleece or lots were documented, but no more references to such after Acts 1:26. Why? THE HOLY SPIRIT RESIDES IN US GIVING CLARITY AND CONFIRMATION TO US!