



# God is Speaking

## Are you listening?

**"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

**(John 10:3)**

# He wants disciples

- ▶ "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
- ▶ (Mat 13:13)
- ▶ All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable.
- ▶ (Mat 13:34)

▶ Then the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak that **was** in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save *it* from the Midianites. The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "**The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior.**"

▶ (Jdg 6:11-12)

▶ Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." The LORD looked at him and said, "**Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?**"

▶ (Jdg 6:13-14)

# Does the enemy know who you are?

- ▶ **"But if you are afraid to go down, go with Purah your servant down to the camp, and you will hear what they say; and afterward your hands will be strengthened that you may go down against the camp." So he went with Purah his servant down to the outposts of the army that was in the camp.**
- ▶ **(Jdg 7:10-11)**
- ▶ **His friend replied, "This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand."**
- ▶ **(Jdg 7:14)**

# Things don't always go how we expect

- ▶ Now the sons of Israel arose, went up to Bethel, and inquired of God and said, "Who shall go up first for us to battle against the sons of Benjamin?" Then the LORD said, "Judah shall go up first." So the sons of Israel arose in the morning and camped against Gibeah. The men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel arrayed for battle against them at Gibeah.
- ▶ (Jdg 20:18-20)
- ▶ Then the sons of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and felled to the ground on that day 22,000 men of Israel. But the people, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and arrayed for battle again in the place where they had arrayed themselves the first day.
- ▶ (Jdg 20:21-22)

▶ The sons of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until evening, and inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall we again draw near for battle against the sons of my brother Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Go up against him." Then the sons of Israel came against the sons of Benjamin the second day. Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah the second day and felled to the ground again 18,000 men of the sons of Israel; all these drew the sword. Then all the sons of Israel and all the people went up and came to Bethel and wept; thus they remained there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening. And they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. The sons of Israel inquired of the LORD (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, Aaron's son, stood before it to minister in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the sons of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."

▶ (Jdg 20:23-28)

# He is still speaking

- ▶ Are you listening?
- ▶ He speaks in many ways
- ▶ It does not always make sense until we ask Him
- ▶ It does not always make sense until we act
- ▶ He can say what He wants How He wants – always I line with His word
- ▶ Don't give up when He has given you a word of promise
- ▶ Be encouraged, and encourage one another.
- ▶ Have you heard what He says about who you are?
- ▶ Have you heard what He says to you about who He is for you?