

10. **(7:16-25) The Lord defeats the enemy:** ¹⁶ Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. ¹⁷ “Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do....” ²⁰ The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. ...they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!” ²¹ While each man held his position around the camp... ²² ...the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. ***Nothing is impossible with the Lord!***

Conclusion: As the Lord confirmed His decision to Gideon through the fleece, *so He can also make His will known to us in various ways!* God’s primary will is that we are saved through Jesus; then, may we always →seek, →know, and →follow His will in all our ways! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

This and other sermons are available on Bethlehem’s website: www.blc7500.com
Please share them with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

PLEASE NOTE: On **June 20**, we will ask God to show us HIS CHOICE on these two decisions; therefore, **on that day**, we will all gather together for worship at 9:00. ***Please join us!***

What will be our Worship Schedule for July and August 2010?

- ONLY Sunday at 8:15 & 10:45
- Sunday at 8:15 & 10:45 AND Monday at 7:00
- Sunday at 9:00 (BC & SS at 10:30) AND Monday at 7:00

What Pews will be Available for Seating?

- All will be available
- All will be available *except the last three (3) on each side*
- All will be available *except the last six (6) on each side*

Biblical Decision-Making – Part 2



“The Fleece”

Based on Judges 6-7 NIV



3rd Sunday after Pentecost, 2nd Sunday after Trinity – 2010
June 13 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, today is part 2 of a series called: Biblical Decision-Making. **Last week** we looked at the Biblical practice of casting lots – *a fair way to make a decision and also a way to put a decision completely into God’s hands!* **Today** we focus on the interesting account of Gideon and his fleece – *a way through which God clearly confirmed His will to Gideon on a very important matter!*

1. **(6:1-6) The Lord allowed the Midianites to punish the evil Israelites; finally, they cried out to the Lord for help:**
⁵ [The Midianites] came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. ...they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.
2. **(6:7-10) The Lord explained the reason for their suffering:** ¹⁰ “I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.” ***Is the Lord your God? Are you faithfully hearing and doing His Word?***
3. **(6:11-24) A conversation between the Lord and Gideon:**
 - a. **To Gideon:** ¹⁴ ...“Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand....”
 - b. **To the Lord:** ¹⁵ ...“how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

- c. **To Gideon:** ¹⁶ ...“I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”
4. **(6:25-32) Gideon’s first assignment:** ²⁵ ...the LORD said to him, “Take the second bull from your father's herd... Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. ²⁶ Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering.” ²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him....
Let us also take radical action for the Lord!
5. **(6:33-35) Armies gather for battle:** ³³ Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces... ³⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. ³⁵ He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.
6. **(6:36-40) Gideon seeks assurance from the Lord with a fleece:** ³⁶ Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised-- ³⁷ look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. **If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.**” ³⁸ And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew--a bowlful of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me.... Allow me one more test with the fleece. **This time make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew.**” ⁴⁰ That night God did so. Only the

fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

Gideon checked and double checked the Lord’s will!

7. **(7:1-8) Gideon’s 32,000 men are reduced down to 300 so the Lord will receive all the credit for the victory:** ² ...In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, ³ announce now to the people, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. ⁴ But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there....” ⁵ ...There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink.” ⁶ Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. ⁷ The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go...” ⁸ So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred... *Crazy, but faithful!*
8. **(7:9-12) The number of the enemy was great:** ¹² The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.
9. **(7:13-15) Gideon is encouraged to attack:** ¹³ Gideon arrived [at the enemy camp] just as a man was telling a friend his dream.... ¹⁴ His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon... God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.” ¹⁵ When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. *Let us take time to be thankful!*