



Extraordinary

Judges 6:1-4, 6, 11-16; Romans 8:31-32

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Bottom Line: Why be *ordinary you* when you can be *extraordinary you*. Be extraordinary.

Introduction:

What kind of person do you want to be?

Do you realize that's up to you?

What if you decided to become **extraordinary**?

Not extraordinary **at** something – an extraordinary person!

What if you asked this question and lived it for a week: *What would an extraordinary person do?*

If you are a Christian or a Jew, you've got to reach for extraordinary.

You believe you were made in the image of God! What are you doing messing around? Getting by?

You can't live like everyone else. Everybody else has an **excuse**. They think this is all there is.

This is the tension in the book of Judges ...

God created Israel to be extraordinary, and they started looking around and acting ordinary.

They looked around and starting acting and thinking like everybody else.

Disobedience → Disaster → Deliverance

Today, we want to talk about one of the twelve judges God sent to deliver Israel: **Gideon**.

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for **seven** years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they **cried out** to the Lord for help.

“The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son **Gideon** was threshing wheat in a **winepress** to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to **Gideon**, he said, “The Lord is with you, **mighty warrior**.”

“But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.”

The Lord turned to him and said, “**Go** in the **strength** you **have** and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am **I** not sending **you**?”

“But Lord,” **Gideon** asked, “**how** can **I** save Israel? My **clan** is the **weakest** in Manasseh, and **I** am the **least** in my family.” The Lord answered, “**I** will be with **you** ...”

-- Judges 6:1-4, 6, 11-16

Will you trust Him to be with you, or will you spend your life taking cues from the people around you?

This is the decision/belief that begins to change everything.

To the Christian, **what the angel told Gideon in private, God has announced to you publicly.**

More than 1,300 years later, the Apostle Paul wrote ...

Romans 8:31-32, “If **God** is for **us**, who can be against **us**?
He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us **all**
...”

God is with you. God is for you. God is in you.

The value of a thing is the price it will bring.

God sent His own Son for you! Embracing this one idea can change the trajectory of your life. This idea is extraordinary. It provides you the potential to be extraordinary.

Conclusion:

“It’s dangerous to think more highly of yourself than you ought. It’s equally as dangerous to think less of yourself than God does.”—Steven Furtick

This isn’t about being good. This is about being extraordinary.
This isn’t about staying out of **trouble**. This is about reaching your **full potential**.

You can spend your life doing what you want, when you want, with whom you want (like everybody else), but you will never be the best version of you. You will never be extraordinary.

Ask: *What would an **extraordinary** person do?*

What would you do if you were confident that God was **with** you, **in** you, and **for** you?

Don’t settle for ordinary.
Don’t settle for what everybody else is doing.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Romans 8:31-32.**
- Ask: *What would an extraordinary person do?***
- Ponder: God is with me, in me, and for me.**
- Join Us on January 14 for *New Rules for Love, Sex, & Dating*.**

NEXT WEEK– Right in the Eye: Ruthie and Bo Save Christmas

The book of Judges records God’s chosen people doing what they want, when they want, with whom they want. The tragedy was that ancient Israel began with divine intervention and a divine mandate. They were to show the world who God was by being different than the nations around them. But for three hundred years they lived in a cycle of disobedience, disaster, and deliverance. The entire time Israel was ping-ponging back and forth from obedience to disobedience during an era when everyone did what was right in his or her own eyes, God was up to something else—he was looking forward ... to Christmas.