

Sermon Title: **“THE ALTAR ANNIHILATED”**

Judges 6:25-35

- It is most-likely that God comes to Gideon in a dream
  - First God tells Gideon how things will end & then God explains to Gideon the 1<sup>st</sup> steps
  - Everything boils down to will you trust God with your today; with your future; with your eternity
- “Take your father’s bull” = This bull was already set aside for a sacrifice to baal
  - Gideon’s father’s bull WASN’T fit to be a sacrifice to YHWH, thus why the 2<sup>nd</sup> bull was also brought along
- Gideon was to dismantle the altar & cut down the Asherah
  - “Asherah” = means groves
  - It was a common practice to have a grove of tall trees next to the altar of baal
  - Gideon was to destroy this pagan altar & in its place, Gideon was to build a new altar to the One True God, YHWH
- Gideon gathers 10 of his servants, men Gideon could have confided in, men who were trustworthy compadres
- The fact that Gideon decided to do this at night was decided out of fear is negative because God DOESN’T give us a spirit of fear
  - Trusting in God means clinging to God in the face of fear
- Basically everyone around Gideon worshipped baal. Gideon was picking a fight with his father’s people & an entire city
- Looking for justice a crowd goes to Joash demanding that Gideon atone for tearing down the altar of baal & the grove next to it
- Joash responds to this mob by saying “Will you contend for baal, or will you deliver him?”
  - In Hebrew, the “you” is emphatic as it’s repeated twice
  - “Jerubbaal” = let baal plead his own case; let baal avege himself for what Gideon has done to him
- “The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon” = literally the Spirit of God clothed Gideon (empowered Gideon to have courage & strength)