

Sermon Title: **“MIDIAN MEANS MISERY”**

Judges 6:1-10

- Each time Israel has experienced God doing the unbelievable, we see them just a couple of verses later, going back to evil
 - So, God gives Israel over into the hands of the Midianites
- The Midianites were too strong for the Children of Israel
 - The frequent waves of Midian attacks saw the Children of Israel forced to withdraw into the mountains
- “When Israel had sown” = this speaks to harvest time
 - The Midianites surrounded the Children of Israel with camps & from these camps plunderers were sent out to raid the Children of Israel
 - ALL the produce was eaten, collected, or fed to their animals & there was NOTHING left for Israel after these raids
 - It was this removal of the Children of Israel’s hard work (the stripping of ALL their produce) that left Israel crying out to God for help
 - The Israelites cried out to their God (Who NEVER forsook them, despite their faithlessness)
- God raised up a judge
 - It was Israel’s choice to NOT obey God that’s caused such calamity

SO WHAT?

- Similarities:
 - 1) Retreated into isolation
 - 2) Stripped of necessities for survival
 - 3) Comfort was rocked
 - 4) The human heart is prone to wander
- FIVE Things to Consider DAILY in This Crisis:
 - 1) What am I grateful for today?
 - 2) How have I allowed God to use this “new normal” to stretch me, grow me, & make me more Christlike?
 - 3) How can I encourage someone else today (maybe by letter, email, or facebook message or by a phone call)?
 - 4) When have I today made time to be alone with God during this “isolation?”
 - 5) What am I going to change about my life once this time has passed & things go back to “normal?”