

of flinging plowing in the field, of the apostles washing nets, and now of Gideon threshing wheat. He was perhaps called in answer to prayer. The revelation was very gradual, and the questions that Gideon asked were not strange. He asked God for a sign and God granted such a sign.

III. Courage of the New Leader (Judges 6:25)

There was immediate obedience unto God, and judgment must begin at the house of God. And no one was better fit for this work than Gideon. There was no hesitation nor secrecy about Gideon's procedure. He obeyed God's directions literally and immediately. Gideon threw down his staff, picked up his ax, and summoned 10 of his servants to go with him and pull down the altar of Baal and cut down the grove of trees. This reminds us that Jesus told a man once to go home to thy friends and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for thee. No time was lost. The call was clear. Why should he put it off? God's call to some of you is clear and yet you linger and hesitate.

He first pulled down the altar of Baal and then he built up a new altar in verse 26 and offered a sacrifice upon it.

His offering was a seven year old bullock, symbolic of the length of time the Midianites had oppressed them.

Early the next morning the worshippers of Baal came before Joash demanding that Gideon die because he hath cast down the altar of Baal. They wanted to put him to death because he had destroyed the grove. But Joash reasoned with these men and he said, "Baal should be free to exercise his own religion. If he really is a God or a deity, he will plead against Gideon. Let Baal punish him." This was a real test for a false god.

Therefore the people parted with the idea that Baal would come down and punish Gideon for destroying his place of worship.

Once again God comes and gives Gideon another testimony of His call and the presence of His spirit with him in his experience with the fleece. And in answer to Gideon's prayer, the fleece was wet with dew while the earth around it was dry, and again the fleece was dry while the ground around it was wet with dew. This was a convincing proof of God's call and that he was not working alone. Nor

was it by chance that he had the absolute assurance that God was with him. Someone has said that Gideon's mother