

Unknowns

Script - **Heb. 11:32-35**

Introduction - There are many “Unknowns” in our life today (Covid19; Social dissension and rioting; political upheaval; sickness and death of our loved ones).

- A. Jesus predictions about upheaval coming for his followers in the early church Lk. 21:5-19).
1. When the disciples comment on the beautiful stones in the temple Jesus tells them things will change and Jerusalem will be destroyed. Then they ask Jesus when will this be and what will be the sign? (Vs 5-7).
 2. The disciples want more details as most humans do. We like to know when things will happen and where we are in history also so we examine the prophecies also (Dan. 2; Mt. 24; Rev. 6).
 3. Jesus then cautions them about being deceived and then proceeds to list many disasters and events that will happen but counsels them to not be afraid or terrified vs. 8-11).
 4. Jesus told them that they would be persecuted and brought before kings and rulers for his name but this would be an opportunity for testimony for them (Lk. 21:12-14).
 5. Jesus reassures them that God will be with them and not a hair of their head would be lost (Lk. 21:15-18).
 6. Lastly Jesus says that by their patience they would possess their souls (Lk. 21:19). Matthew translates this statement to say, “He who endures to the end will be saved” (Mt. 24:13). This statement is very similar to the counsel given to the church in Smyrna (the persecuted church) (Rev. 2:10).
- B. Gideon also had some “Unknowns” and struggles in his life, but was used by God in a powerful way
1. Some of the “unknowns” in his life.
 - a. He doubted if what he was told by the angel was true (Judges 6:12-13).
 - b. His home life was not ideal (Judges 6:25-27).
 - c. Gideon was not perfect and made some bad choices in his life (Judges 8:22-30).
 2. By God’s grace he was able to accomplish the following things;
 - a. He responded to God’s call to serve as a leader, when it came to him (Judges 6-7).
 - b. He had a humble opinion of himself (Judges 6:14).
 - c. Gideon influenced many others around hi (including his father’s household) to return to worshipping the true and living God (Judges 6-7).
 - d. In spite of the home that he came from and struggles he had he developed a personal walk with the Lord so he felt comfortable moving forward in faith when God called upon him.
- C. How does this apply to us today?
1. We don’t have to be perfect to be able to be used by God to accomplish great things for Him.
 2. We need to pay attention to Jesus counsel about the unknowns in our lives.
 3. We need to remember that even though Gideon made some mistakes and poor choices he is listed among those that are saved by faith in Heb. 11:32-35.
 4. Even though you may have some unknowns in your life right now, remember that your name is not one of the unknowns to God (Isa. 43:1). He knows your name and cares about you through all of this.