



I. REVIEW/INTRO

- A. Filter's help cover up the flaws and make us look better
- B. The fear of people is a trap

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) Fearing people is a dangerous trap ... but trusting the Lord means safety

- C. The comparison trap

2 Corinthians 10:12 (ERV) ¹² We don't dare put ourselves in the same class with those who think they are so important. We don't compare ourselves to them. They use themselves to measure themselves, and they judge themselves by what they themselves are. This shows that they know nothing.

- Don't let other people be a false scale for you

II. THE FEELING OF INADEQUACY

- A. Where does the feeling of inadequacy come from?

- **We've received unfair criticism**
- **We've received unrealistic compliments**
- **We've made unwise comparison's**

- B. "We compare other people's highlight reels with our behind the scenes."

III. LESSON FROM THE WINE PRESS

- A. The word of the Lord visits Gideon

Judges 6:11-14 (NET Bible) ¹¹ The Lord's angelic messenger came and sat down under the oak tree in Ophrah owned by Joash the Abiezrite. He arrived while Joash's son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress so he could hide it from the Midianites. ¹² The Lord's messenger appeared and said to him, "The Lord is with you, courageous warrior!" ¹³ Gideon said to him, "Pardon me, but if the Lord is with us, why has such disaster overtaken us? Where are all his miraculous deeds our ancestors told us about? They said, 'Did the Lord not bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to Midian." ¹⁴ Then the Lord himself turned to him and said, "You have the strength. Deliver Israel from the power of the Midianites! Have I not sent you?"

Judges 6:15-16 (NET Bible) ¹⁵ Gideon said to him, "But Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Just look! My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my family." ¹⁶ The Lord said to him, "Ah, but I will be with you! You will strike down the whole Midianite army."



B. Three things we can learn from Gideon

1. God's view of you is different than you think

Judges 6:12 (NET Bible) The Lord's messenger appeared and said to him, "The Lord is with you, courageous warrior!"

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

- Don't be surprised if others don't see you as God sees you.

2. God has given you more than you think.

Judges 6:14 (NET Bible) ¹⁴ Then the Lord himself turned to him and said, "You have the strength. Deliver Israel from the power of the Midianites! Have I not sent you?"

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV) ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

3. It's less about you than you think

Judges 6:16 (NET Bible) ¹⁶ The Lord said to him, "Ah, but I will be with you! You will strike down the whole Midianite army."

- When God calls you to do something, it's more about God's presence than your own power

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NTE) ²⁶ Think back to your own call, my brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise in human terms. Not many of you were powerful. Not many were nobly born. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose the insignificant and despised things of the world – yes, even things that don't exist! – to abolish the power of the things that do exist, ²⁹ so that no creature could boast in God's presence. ³⁰ Who and what you now are is a gift from God in King Jesus, who has become for us God's wisdom – and righteousness, sanctification and redemption as well; ³¹ so that, as the Bible puts it, 'Anyone who boasts should boast in the Lord.'