



"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Judges 6:12

This strikes me as an extremely funny scripture. For seven years the Midianites had been oppressing Israel. The Israelites had prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, in caves, and in other strongholds. They had difficulty harvesting crops. Before the harvest could ripen, the enemy was there to ravage it. Gideon had finally found enough wheat to thrash, and was hiding in a winepress to keep away from the Midianites.

Hiding in a winepress! Threshing wheat in a winepress! Afraid at any moment that he might be discovered!

And then this angel appears to him and says, "The Lord is with you, Mighty Warrior!"

"Who, me?" Gideon must have thought. "You've got to be kidding!"

But Gideon was learning the way of the Lord! He sees more in us than we see in ourselves.

This was the uniqueness of Jesus' relationship with others. He looked inside them and brought out their destiny. Peter was an impulsive, probably swearing, fisherman. And yet, Jesus looked at him and called him a "rock."

He called James and John "sons of thunder". I assume this means they could express themselves rather tempestuously, yet they became His closest companions.

Levi was a tax collector; Simon was a zealot who wanted to overthrow the Roman Empire. But there were among the choice twelve.

All these men were changed because Jesus saw more in them than they saw in themselves.

This is the way of the Lord. He knows who we are, but He calls us "Mighty Warriors" while we are still in hiding from the enemy, threshing our wheat in a winepress!

If we are wise, we will listen and become who He calls us to be!