

**“Mercy Came First”**  
**Judges 6:1-21**  
**November 24, 2019**

**I. Judges 6:1-21 Summarized**

- A. Israel turned to idols (again!) and was oppressed by Midian for 7 years.
- B. Israel cried out to God and was met with a prophetic rebuke.
- C. The Angel of the Lord (who *is* the Lord) appeared and commissioned Gideon anyway.

**II. The Lord’s Mercy Prior to His People’s Response**

- A. The Lord had mercy on Israel before they repented. (Judges 6:11)
- B. The Lord showed mercy to Gideon before he accepted God’s commission.
  - 1. Despite Gideon’s sarcastic unbelief! (Judges 6:13)
  - 2. Despite Gideon’s wavering faith! (Judges 6:15)
- C. Salvation was accomplished for God’s people everywhere because of the Lord’s prior mercy:
  - 1. Like God the Father’s mercy to send His son.
  - 2. Like God the Son’s mercy to come again to be incarnated as Jesus.
    - a. Not to *appoint* a deliverer like He had done with Gideon.
    - b. But to *be* the Deliverer through His suffering and death.

***Hebrews 13:8 -Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.***

- D. Salvation came to us because of the Lord’s prior mercy.
- E. Christian growth occurs because of the Lord’s prior mercy.
  - 1. This gives us hope for ourselves!
  - 2. It gives us hope for the church!