

GIDEON

- Judges 6 If verses 36-40 were read alone, one might mistakenly come to the conclusion that we should ask God for signs to know what to do. This is why reading a passage in the narrative context is important.
- Rather than endorsing "sign seeking", this story is all about God's longsuffering in utilizing a deeply flawed character to bring about deliverance. Of course, this is in keeping with the entire narrative of the Judges.

• Besides, there are elements in the passage itself that make it clear we are not looking at "standard practice" – certainly not compared to the kind of "signs" people typically ask for today (flipping a coin, for example).

"YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT **ACTS 1:26 OR** PROVERBS 16:33?"

- Has God already said something on the matter, and you just don't like it? (Micah 6:8, Matthew 19:16-22)
- Are you dealing with two equally good options, in a moral sense? Which choice helps or hinders you spiritually?
- What are the motivating factors? More money? More time with your kids? More prestige? More freedom to serve in the church? More to be proud of? More that humbles you?
- Are you really willing to leave life's big choices in the hands of accident or coincidence? Perhaps it's just your attempt to extract yourself from the responsibility (i.e., if it's the wrong choice, you can always blame God for misdirecting you).

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

THE SIGN OF JONAH Matthew 12:38-40, 16:1-4