

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES AND INTERACTIVE PDF

Don't Tread Softly

Answer God's call with courage, make room for His preparation, and carry His love to others.

SERMON TITLE	MINISTER
Don't Tread Softly	Anthony Washington
DATE	PRIMARY SCRIPTURE
Sunday, September 28, 2025	Judges 6:12 ; 2 Timothy 2:21

TOPICS [Boldness](#) | [Calling](#) | [Sanctification](#) | [Preparation](#) | [Ministry](#)

NOTES

Truth to carry into the week.

01 Step forward with God beside you.

- The angel greets Gideon as a mighty man of valor while Gideon sees himself as the least in his family. God's call reaches beyond Gideon's self-assessment. ([Judges 6:11-16](#))
- Gideon asks questions and receives assurance that the Lord will be with him. Bring honest fears to God, then respond to His direction. ([Judges 6:14-16](#))
- Boldness rests in God's presence and purpose rather than confidence in our own strength. ([Judges 6:16](#))

"God called Gideon a mighty man of valor"

STUDY [Judges 6:11-16](#)

02 Trust His preparation for the call.

- Gideon's army becomes smaller before the battle so Israel cannot claim the victory as its own. God is able to work through a small, attentive company. ([Judges 7:1-7](#))
- The story invites a heart ready to listen and obey even when God's approach does not match our expectations. ([Judges 7:4-7](#))

- Do not measure your usefulness only by numbers, experience, or visible strength. Let God prepare you for your part. ([Judges 7:7](#))

“he qualifies you when he calls you”

STUDY [Judges 7:1-7](#)

03 Become a vessel for honorable use.

- Paul describes vessels in a great house and calls believers to turn from what dishonors the Master. Cleansing prepares a person for good work. ([2 Timothy 2:20-21](#))
- Let the Lord examine habits, motives, and relationships that hinder faithful service. His grace welcomes a willing response. ([2 Timothy 2:21](#))
- Preparation is for ministry: a sanctified vessel becomes useful to the Master and ready for every good work. ([2 Timothy 2:21](#))

“he will be a vessel for honor”

STUDY [2 Timothy 2:20-21](#)

04 Nurture the gift and stay in the Word.

- Paul tells Timothy not to neglect the gift in him. Give yourself to the calling God has entrusted to you. ([1 Timothy 4:14-15](#))
- Pay attention to your life and teaching, and continue in them. Scripture shapes the person who carries the gift. ([1 Timothy 4:15-16](#))
- Make room for steady reading, prayer, and practice so growth becomes visible and useful to others. ([1 Timothy 4:15-16](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#))

“do not neglect the gift that is in you”

STUDY [1 Timothy 4:14-16](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#)

05 Carry reconciliation with gentleness.

- God entrusts His people with the ministry of reconciliation. We speak for Christ so others can hear His invitation. ([2 Corinthians 5:18-20](#))
- The Lord’s servant must avoid quarrels and be gentle, patient, and able to teach. Boldness does not cancel humility. ([2 Timothy 2:23-25](#))
- Look for people who need truth and compassion, and offer the gospel without strife. ([2 Timothy 2:25-26](#))

“the servant of the Lord must not quarrel”

STUDY [2 Corinthians 5:18-20](#); [2 Timothy 2:23-26](#)

06 Build faith so you can help others.

- Jude urges believers to build themselves up in faith, pray in the Holy Spirit, and keep themselves in God’s love. ([Jude 1:20-21](#))
- That inner strengthening turns outward: show compassion and help people who are in danger. ([Jude 1:22-23](#))
- Ask where God has placed you to point someone toward Jesus, then take a gentle and faithful step. ([Jude 1:20-23](#))

“building yourself up on your most holy faith”

STUDY [Jude 1:20-23](#)

SCRIPTURE INDEX - NKJV

Read the Word in context.

[Judges 6:11-16](#)

[Judges 7:1-7](#)

[2 Timothy 2:20-21](#)

[2 Timothy 2:23-26](#)

[1 Timothy 4:14-16](#)

[Hebrews 4:12](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:18-20](#)

[Jude 1:20-23](#)

[Romans 8:19](#)

[John 1:1-14](#)

[Luke 10:2](#)

[John 8:36](#)

How will I answer God's call?

Where do I feel too small or unprepared to answer God's call?

What needs to change so I am ready for His good work?

How can I nurture the gift God has placed within me?

Who can I serve with both courage and gentleness this week?
