

Judges 3:12-30

EHUD

Introduction:

1. In a previous lesson, we noticed the Cycle of the Judges.
 2. We have also considered the reasons for Israel's downfall.
 3. We studied the brief mention of Israel's first judge, Othniel, and the lessons to be learned from his life.
 4. Finally, we examined the final chapters of the book of Judges to help illustrate the corruption and depravity among God's people.
 5. This brings us to a study of Israel's second judge, Ehud.
 6. His name means, "union" or "united" – fitting since he would serve to unite the people of God against their enemies.
 7. During this period of time, Israel was oppressed by Eglon, the king of Moab, and a confederation of his people with the Ammonites and the Amalekites.
 8. Ehud was the man chosen by God to deliver Israel from their oppression.
- I. Ehud – A Strange Choice (vs. 12-15)
- A. He was from the tribe of Benjamin.
 1. Benjamin was the smallest tribe of Israel.
 2. Also, remember the recent history of Benjamin (Judges 19 – 21).

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

- B. He was left-handed.
 1. It is possible that he was handicapped in his right hand.
 2. It is possible that he was ambidextrous (cf. 20:16).
 3. Left-handed people were considered disgraceful and untrustworthy in those days.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Exodus 4:10-12 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. 11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

- C. He was unknown and of a "mediocre" lineage.

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1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

- II. Ehud – A Strong Champion (vs. 16-26)
 - A. He was resourceful (vs. 16).
 - 1. Ehud constructed his own weapon.
 - 2. Thus, he was able to hide it effectively from his enemies.
 - B. He was decisive (vs. 19).
 - 1. The word “quarries” is the Hebrew word for “idols or graven images.”
 - 2. It is possible that they passed by a quarry where idols were built.
 - 3. Or, it may be that they passed by a grove of idols.
 - 4. Either way, this would help persuade Eglon that Ehud had a message from God.
 - 5. Indeed, he did have a message – however, it was from Jehovah, not one of Eglon’s false gods.
 - 6. Or, is it possible that the idols reminded Ehud of his need to do the work of Jehovah.

Acts 17:16-17 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. 17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

- C. He was patient (vs. 20).
 - 1. When opportunity did not present itself at first, Ehud waited.
 - 2. Then, when the time was right, he took advantage of the situation.
- D. He was active (vs. 21-22).
 - 1. He was not afraid to fight for what was right.
 - 2. Contrast Ehud’s action with the delay of Eglon’s servants.
 - 3. Our sword is the Word of the Lord. Will you use it?

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

- III. Ehud – A Stirring Chief (vs. 27-30)
 - A. He rallied others to himself (vs. 27).
 - 1. Ehud did not hide in the shadows and wait for someone else to lead.
 - 2. Instead, he rallied the troops and won the victory.
 - B. He encouraged others to follow him (vs. 28a).
 - C. He followed and honored Jehovah (vs. 28b).
 - D. He delivered peace to the land (vs. 29-30).

Conclusion: *Ehud might not have been man’s choice for a deliverer, but he was God’s choice. God can use us if we will let Him.*